

THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 5TH MAY, 1906.

No. 18

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome.....	217
Leading Articles:—	
Outbreaks in China	318
The Shifting of the Axis	318
Infectious Diseases at Hongkong	319
Marketing at Hongkong	319
Imperial Veto and the Colonies	320
Hongkong Jottings	321
Hongkong Sanitary Board	321
Masonic	322
Supreme Court	322
Police Court	325
Sensational Occurrence in Victoria Gaol	325
An Extradition Difficulty	325
Infectious Disease Measures	326
Companies:—	
The Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.	327
The Hongkong Electric Company, Ltd.	327
A. S. Watson and Company, Ltd.	328
China Association	328
Chinese Customs Report	329
Home and China Affairs	330
New Pacific Liner	331
Canton	331
Macao	331
Amateur Dramatic Club	332
Ostasiatischer Verein	332
Cargo Insurance at Shanghai	332
Shanghai Trams	332
Reviews	333
A Fatal Fight	333
Entertaining French and Japanese Fleets	333
Abbreviations of Names of Chinese Provinces	333
Commercial	333
Shipping	338

BIRTH.

On April 26th, at Shanghai, the wife of J. J. DUNNE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On April 11th, at Tientsin, WILLIAM KEMP BRADGATE, of the Imperial Railways of North China, to ELEANOR LEE PAXON.

On April 19th, at Yokohama, ROBERT CAMPBELL EDWARDS, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and HELENA DEBORAH LOUISE, daughter of WALTER FINCH PAGE, Esq., of Togonohama, Dzushi, Kanagawa Ken, Japan.

DEATHS.

On April 23rd, at Hankow, WILHELM FINNINGER, aged 28 years. Accidentally drowned.

On April 25th, at Ningpo, Mrs. KATE B. CUNNINGHAM, aged 59 years.

On April 27th, at Shanghai, DANIEL TAYLOR BLACK, late of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., aged 56 years.

Hongkong Weekly Pres:

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The English Mail of April 6th arrived, per the ss. Dongola, on Thursday, the 3rd instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Government property at Hongkong has been formally declared open to inspection by Sanitary Board officials.

A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd., record a net profit for 1905 of \$15,408.59, and propose to pay a dividend of five per cent., making ten per cent. for the year.

The Hongkong Electric Company is paying a dividend of twelve per cent. for the period of ten months. On page 327 there are full particulars.

It is proposed to establish an arsenal in the Imperial Hunting Park at Peking, and an expert from Messrs. Krupp is to be appointed to the management.

A long letter of considerable public interest, for other communities than Hongkong, was written by a prominent Chinese citizen to the Sanitary Board. A copy of it appears on page 326 of this number.

The news that Germany is increasing its naval strength in Far Eastern waters, as published in the *Daily Press*, caused a flutter of interest at Hongkong this week.

One of the Mongolian Princes is visiting Tokyo. He states his chief object is to get some hints on military organization so that he may drill troops to protect the frontier.

The Chinese Government is protesting against the use of the title Governor General by the Germans in Kiaochou, seeing that it is a leased port only and not a German colony.

The Board of Commerce has approved the formation of a Chino-Japanese shipping company to be known as the Manchurian Shipping Co. to navigate all Manchurian waterways.

A sensational case of homicide occurred in the Hongkong jail on May 1st, when one convict working alongside another on the shoemakers' bench suddenly stabbed his companion several times in the neck. He now awaits trial.

M. Pokotiloff has requested the Government to establish a branch Foreign Office at Kulun or the settlement of international matters. It is reported that the Waiwupu intends to comply with the request.

Our Hamburg correspondent reports the death of Mr. W. Reiners, senior partner in the firm of Reiners & Co., Hamburg. Mr. Reiners was very well known in Far Eastern commerce. Heart failure is mentioned as the cause of his death.

The Superintendent of Police at Hankow had a good day's sport on April 24th, after a "mad" buffalo. It was going through the city, tossing human beings out of its way, and after a stern chase in both ricksha and sampan, Supt. Millar got near enough and shot the brute.

The Chungkuapao at Peking announces that Sir Robert Hart is about to retire; that Sir Robert Bredon is to succeed him; and that the administration of the Imperial Chinese Post Office is to be given to a foreign-educated Chinese official. These reports are without confirmation.

The Opium Farmer at Hongkong is still very busy seizing commercial consignments of morphia and other opium compounds.

The Chinese Board of Revenue, acting on the recommendation of the five Travelling Commissioners, had decided to engage Prof. J. W. Jenks as financial expert at a salary of one thousand taels a month, with a five years' agreement, but the State Council, fearing lest after Prof. Jenks' engagement all the foreign Ministers would want to have a financial adviser of their own nationality engaged and make things difficult for China, decided to postpone taking the step for the present.

It having been proposed by the Chinese Government to appoint a Chinese official as co-director of the postal affairs, Sir Robert Hart has threatened that if this is done he will hand over the postal affairs altogether. This perhaps accounts for the report of his imminent retirement. The *Daily Press* public announcements gave the news that the partnership of Messrs. Brutton, Hett, and Goldring is dissolved, the firm now consisting of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, while Mr. P. W. Goldring is to conduct his own practice.

On the 3rd instant Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers, sold Inland Lot No. 15 with the buildings thereon known as Nos. 48, Bonham Strand and 19, Burd Street, and Inland Lot No. 76 on which is erected the buildings known as Nos. 60, Wing Lok Street and 263, Des Vœux Road Central. The first property was bought by Mr. Pan Hi-ping for \$36,100, while the highest bid for the second was \$27,200, Mr. Tang Chi-ngan being the purchaser. Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master were the solicitors for the mortgagees, by whose order the property was sold.

The recent visit of Japanese cruisers to Manila, in conjunction with the various rumours that have lately been going the rounds regarding the possible transfer of the Philippine Islands to Japan, appears to be mightily exercising the minds of the natives both in Manila and in the provinces. This is especially true, says the *Manila Times*, of the more ignorant classes. To a number of Americans in Manila the question has been broached almost breathlessly: "When are the Japanese coming to take the Islands?" Many of the interrogators seem to think the invasion is nigh at hand, and that when it does come it will be of the Genghis Khan order and the Islands will be swept with fire and sword.

The essential points of the Anglo-Tibetan treaty which has been concluded between the British Minister and the Waiwupu are:

(i) Great Britain recognises Tibet to be a protectorate of China.

(ii) Great Britain will not interfere in the internal affairs of Tibet, so long as no other Power attempts to do so.

(iii) China will open some markets in Tibet for trade with India, and erect telegraph lines.

(iv) Great Britain shall have the preference in regard to railway, mining, and other concessions in Tibet, but if any such concessions are granted only Chinese shall be employed in carrying out the works.

(v) The sum of Taels 2,400,000 is to be paid to Great Britain to defray the cost of the recent Mission to Lhasa.

[May 5, 1908.]

OUTBREAKS IN CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 30th April.)

The possibility of serious difficulties arising in China, in consequence of her now feeling secure in the assurance that there is a consensus among foreign nations in favour of preserving her integrity, has been amply shown by the threats which have been rife in various directions and the outbreaks which have taken place in more places than one of late. There has been enough to show that notwithstanding all professions to the contrary and in face of some signs of improvement on the part of the High Authorities at Peking and the more enlightened among the Provincial Officials, China as a whole remains unchanged in respect to her attitude towards outside nations. In a word, the only consideration that will secure Europeans in China from insult or attack is in the present day, as much as it was in the earliest times, the fear of immediate reprisals, and the possibility of such action on the part of the nation aggrieved leading to permanent disaster in the form of some seizure of territory. This wholesome dread of the consequences of any serious outbreak has been the means of preventing their being of much more frequent occurrence than they have been for the last half century—though even in face of this salutary restraint there have been outrages enough to have worn out the patience of civilised nations; had they been perpetrated by any other nation in the world. The serious results of a forward movement of any one foreign nation in China on the position and interests of all others has prevented heavy reprisals being taken; and upon this reluctance of foreign nations collectively to see the state of affairs in regard to China interfered with by any one of them the Chinese have relied, and successfully relied, to keep all at a distance. She has thus been able to hold her own and to preserve her integrity in a manner which would have been impossible but for the jealousies of foreign Powers among themselves. The drift of political events have of late years emphasised the desirability of preserving the integrity of China, if it is possible, to continue to do so by any reasonable means; and the Chinese are shrewd enough to be aware that the last thing which any foreign nation would be desirous of doing, or would be likely to be countenanced in doing by other foreign nations, is anything in the direction of warlike action which might end in the annexation of Chinese territory. It is not surprising that some of the more near-sighted among the officials backed up by a large number of the masses, who are even more ignorant, should conceive the idea that the time has come when foreign nations are less to be feared than was formerly the case. The old "gun-boat policy", which in its day certainly did good service, is known to be a thing of the past. Rapid reprisals in the old style without any reference to headquarters, which were effective in their day, are not likely to be resorted to in these days of telegraphs and rapid inter-communication with headquarters. There is thus always the certainty of negotiation, and the Chinese are usually quite satisfied to rely upon their finesse to get out of any difficulties they make the subject of negotiation with the slower-going foreign nations. Under such circumstances there is no doubt reason to fear that outrages of the old stamp upon mission stations or upon isolated foreigners may be upon the increase; and that anti-foreign agitations and secret combinations may assume proportions which may end in serious trouble. We have of

course assurances at headquarters that such a state of things will not be permitted by them; and it is quite possible that these assurances are to some extent at least sincere. The Peking officials who are fairly informed as to the drift of foreign affairs in the present day cannot but be aware of the desirability of avoiding any open conflict; but at the same time they may not be displeased at occasional demonstrations in the provinces which may have the effect of keeping foreign nations at a distance, and causing them to hesitate to press reforms, which they might otherwise demand with more persistency. This has been the old standing policy of Peking and there seems but too much reason to conclude that it is its policy to the present day.

Such a state of things is one which may justly cause apprehension, and it is not surprising that fears have been expressed in many directions as to the possibility of serious trouble with China. Matters, however, are not in quite so critical a position as might at first blush appear. While foreign nations are undoubtedly in favour of preserving the integrity of China, they are not prepared to translate this into allowing outrages of a serious character to pass unredressed. It is a noticeable fact that the two nations who have most emphatically enunciated this policy have been those who but recently let China know very distinctly that foreigners in China must be loyally protected. Japan spoke out in no measured terms on the subject when the recent threats of trouble were first heard; and the United States, who were to the forefront in maintaining the principle that Chinese integrity should be maintained, nevertheless acted with justifiable promptitude in despatching troops to Manila, when difficulties threatened. The Chinese Government are thus warned that there are two nations who can land forces if necessary within a very short space of time, who may at any given moment have to be reckoned with, should any serious rising be attempted; and we have thus a means of bringing them to reason, of a character which could not have been reckoned upon in former days. The Chinese do not mind doing things that may ultimately lead to war but may possibly be settled by negotiation, but they very soon come to their senses when force is displayed before them. If they are made aware that outbreaks or serious threats will be dealt with promptly they will take steps to put them down; and fortunately in the present day there are means of dealing with such matters with promptitude, and whose existence it may be hoped will not be overlooked.

THE SHIFTING OF THE AXIS.

(*Daily Press*, 1st May.)

One of the marked features of the beginning of the century is that the power of generalisation, which distinguished the great men who made the first half of the nineteenth century a landmark in the history of the world, has in a great measure become dormant, and the leadership in the advance has now passed into the hands of the micrographers, who in their devotion to microscopic detail are unable to raise their mental point of view sufficiently high to distinguish the horizon, and allow their purview to be restricted to the baggage about, much of which has been inadvertently piled up by themselves. Amongst the sufferers in the race of littleness is the science of geology, and amongst the subjects closely connected with geology is the kindred topic of seismology, where the prevailing

weakness is perhaps of all the natural sciences most conspicuous. We do not mean to say that the seismologists have been standing still: they have been doing a great deal, which in the hands of the future man of genius will some day doubtless lead to results. They have, for example, invented a number of new instruments, which enable an earthquake to be recognised in the most distant parts of the earth. They have calculated the amplitude of the vibrations, and the time taken in their propagation, and have learnt to distinguish those vibrations which have been transmitted superficially from those which have passed through the body of the earth. They have learnt to locate within trifling limits of error not only the spot where each particular shock originated, but its depth below the surface, and the occurrence of any serious shock in any part of the world, however remote or isolated, is now known by its own records in the leading observatories of the world. So much for the external aspects of the phenomena. Of the actuating causes which lead up to them seismology knows nothing, and it may almost be added cares to know nothing. The position of seismology amongst the sciences is very like that of a philosopher who had found for the first time a watch, and was desirous of knowing something about it, yet who should confine his researches into elaborate investigations as to its regular ticking and the equation of time, and omit altogether to enquire into the mainspring and the balance wheel. The geologist talks glibly enough of elevatory forces, as if the shibboleth would open up everything, and never pauses to consider what are elevatory forces at all, or whence they come or whether they tend; and the seismologist follows him blindly round the corner, and never thinks of the quagmires and quicksands that may await them there. Now the last three months have been especially prolific of earthquakes, indeed we may go further and extend the term to the last three years, to the explosion in Martinique. The earth, everyone knows, rests on an elephant, and the elephant on a tortoise; and whenever the tortoise moves the elephant quivers and the earth is shaken. So far so good, but creeping link by link along an infinite chain will never carry us nearer to the other extremity; yet that is the position of the geologists, and their followers, the seismologists of the day. True, science gives us formulae for the summation of infinite series, but that both persistently ignore.

We may, however, glance back over the events of the last three months with some interest, if not profit. On the 31st January the little town of Esmeraldas, on the Pacific coast of Colombia, was at ten o'clock in the morning severely shaken by an earthquake which almost entirely destroyed it. Immediately afterwards a huge tidal wave came rushing in from the ocean, and carried off what the earthquake had spared. The same scene was witnessed all along the coast of Colombia as far as Guayaquil. Now in the earthquake world Colombia is a place of importance: it is situated on the Equator, and here two well established earthquake lines cross, and naturally Colombia experiences far more than its share of these unpleasant visitors. Something similar happened in 1902, when a severe earthquake occurred in Guatemala on the 19th April; this earthquake was followed on the 11th May by the outburst in Martinique, and the entire destruction of the town of St. Pierre, and the disturbances thence spread to Europe and even the east of Asia. If we follow the reports which have since

come to hand we shall see that the last outbreak in this region was even more remarkable in its sequelæ. On the 16th February we find St. Vincent disturbed, accompanied by quakes in Martinique and St. Lucia. On the 21st, we find an earthquake at Baku on the Caspian, and on or about the 9th March we find a severe quake at Rampur, near Simla, in the Himalayns. All these, as likewise happened in 1902, were situated, as can be readily seen by examining a globe, on a great circle which crossed the Equator in Ecuador, and reached its northern culmination about Trieste on the Adriatic. With this too we must connect the recent great explosion of Vesuvius, which seems to have reached its acme of destruction on or about the 10th April. We have not, however, completed our list of the immeditate sequelæ.

As we stated above, Colombia is situated at the crossing of two great earthquake lines, the second of which, following the line of the Rockies, goes through the Aleutians in N.L. 55°, and descends by Kamtschatka, Japan and Formosa to the Equator in Sumatra, exactly 180 degrees from the other crossing in Ecuador. Now we find equally marked effects of the disturbance along this line, as in a spider's web the slightest touch on any one point is instantly carried to the point of intersection where the spider as on a place of vantage is always to be found on watch ready to pounce on the innocent intruder. On the 24th February the Pacific mail making for Yokohama encountered a severe shock at 9.15 a.m. On the 18th March we find Formosa the seat of a most destructive shock which caused an enormous loss of life, and opened wide fissures in the mountains, and again, worst and most destructive of all, we find on the 18th April the proud city of San Francisco almost entirely destroyed, partly by the earthquake and partly through the consequent fire. Of the numerous earthquakes in fact which have been recorded within the last three months it is well worthy of note that two only have occurred in lines outside these two great circles, yet both in well known seismic districts, whose connections have not yet been worked out; one, apparently a most destructive one, occurred on or about the 15th March at Uliasutai in Western Mongolia, of which we only know from Chinese sources, and the other in the South Pacific in the Samoan group. It is quite possible that the connections of the latter may prove to be with the prolonged Himalayan line continued beyond the Equator, but at present we miss the connecting line covered by the waters of the great ocean. The other forms part of the great Altai line, stretching from Kashgar to Lake Baikal, along which earthquakes are numerous, but always in more or less sympathy with the Himalayan line. Now it is noteworthy that as yet the seismologists have not risen to the conception of any of these being associated with great circles; yet herein lies their special importance.

As long ago as 1893 Mr. R. D. OLDFIELD, then Superintendent of the Indian Geological Survey, pointed out the necessity of referring many of the phenomena familiar to Indian geologists to changes of latitude, these phenomena being, however, not so familiar to European geologists have by them been steadily ignored, and the seismologists taking thence their cue have followed in the same track. The occurrence of these lines of weakness of the crust in connection with great circles points to the only conceivable cause for their presence, that is, that once they were equatorial lines, and their existence was due to the same causes as tidal action, namely, the

differential action of gravity, and in this we can find a reason for their peculiar distribution. We know that the force of gravity transmuted into centrifugal force is responsible for the present bulging of the Equator. Practically we know of no other force capable of elevating one portion of the earth's surface above the mean. It is true, as above stated, that the geologist speaks glibly enough of "elevatory forces", but no one has had the hardihood to suggest how they have arisen nor of what nature they are. Now we know that the persistent action of such momentarily insignificant forces as the attraction of the planet Mars does actually have far reaching effects on the orbit of the earth. It is but a short and logical step to believe that this in turn has equally far reaching effects on the position of the axis. The explanation would require far more than the limits of an article to explain, but it will readily suggest itself to a mind free from the influence of the European geologists. At all events it marks progress, if we can begin to see our way towards accepting the rule of law in lieu of the mere dictates of caprice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT HONGKONG

(*Daily Press, 2nd May.*)

THE modern cry of the sociologist is that crime is a disease: in the Colony of Hongkong there are indications that disease is regarded as a crime. It should be difficult for anyone to read Mr. LAU CHU-PAK's letter to the Sanitary Board [*vide Daily Press* of 1st instant] without feeling that it had at least some justification. The conventional view of the administration of Hongkong, as concerned with sanitary matters, has been that the authorities have hitherto been too regardful of native prejudices; that the trouble has augmented by reason of a traditional official aversion to taking the bull by the horns; and we can accept this view as applying largely to the past history of Hongkong. We are moreover open to the persuasion that in some respects the same foolish tenderness is permitted to continue. But we conceive that in the matter of infectious disease, and its treatment by the sanitary authority, grave mistakes are being made; the officials work evil that good may come. We have previously pointed out, and the suggestion has so far met no contradiction, that for reasons given their efforts and so-called precautions were in the nature of ploughing the sand, or beating the wind. According to Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, and independent observations of our own, they appear to be importing into their fight with the wind the vindictiveness of despair. Or, since it can scarcely be just to use the vindictive term in this connection, we may liken them to the small boy who fights with his eyes shut, and so hits unoffending bystanders. Infected persons, and those technically called "contacts", are treated, it is alleged, with about the same amount of consideration that is meted to wilful offenders against society, rather than with the sympathy and extra consideration to which their misfortunes entitle them. These remarks apply to more diseases than plague, and to more patients than Chinese. Harsh as appears the primitive custom of banishing plague-stricken people to "outer darkness", and of giving them no greater succour than the placing of provender upon a stone that marked the limit of their re-approach to society, there was in that at least no infliction of the humiliation which covers a man who finds his liberty and dignity ruthlessly encroached upon by the compulsory use of those

"convict-like garments" to which Mr. LAU CHU-PAK refers. A principle which is grossly neglected in Hongkong is that by which all should bear a share (fixed on equitable considerations) of the sacrifices incurred in defence of society as a whole. Thus, to take the case of a smallpox patient, for instance, we find the victim imprisoned for the public good. That is permissible. We find, as in the cases cited by Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, that all his own clothes, including those clean, unworn, and untouched, are taken away; and a "convict-like" uniform, in itself a gratuitous insult and degradation, insisted upon irrespective of the patient's quality. For all this, we find that he is, unlike his neighbour in the common jail, expected to pay cash, and to pay promptly; and, if he be a poor man, to receive letters threatening legal proceedings in default. Should he, as so many find it convenient to do, reside in a public hotel, we find that there too his misfortune is regarded as a crime, or, at any rate, as something for which he alone is responsible. For what the sanitary authority's agents do to his apartments, in the interests of the public and of the hotel, he has to recompense the hotel proprietors. These apparently irrelevant details are to show that the common way of regarding a person who inadvertently suffers for his rashness in staying in a pest-ridden community is an unfair and an unreasonable way. This would occasion less complaint if we could believe that the proceedings were marked by any consistency or efficacy. But it is now generally believed that the carelessness of the supervision of official "contacts" is as great as is the undiscriminating and wholly unsympathetic harrying of un-official "contacts". We venture to suggest that Mr. LAU CHU-PAK's proposal for a sub-committee to thoroughly investigate these matters does not go far enough, inasmuch as such an ex-officio enquiry might not be so thorough, so whole-hearted, and so radical as we need and wish for. What we would welcome would be a special international commission of investigation, with His Excellency the GOVERNOR as President, which would ignore all official precedents and red-tape whatsoever, and invite and consider both evidence and opinions as to the past, present, and future of the whole matter. There should be no question of putting officials and persons on their defence as to matters of administration; but rather a review of principles to guide future administration. We do not wish to be misunderstood as carping at the present Sanitary Board; their motives and ambitions are good. It might, however, be well for them to consider if they have not been, as the absurd American axiom has it, "hitching their wagon to a star", and allowing some of its load to fall out at the rearward end. The sanitary wagon might travel better with a more practicable horse.

MARKETING AT HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press, 3rd May.*)

When a member of the Sanitary Board first raised the question of market prices, as published in connection with domestic supplies at Hongkong, we suspected that he was merely mare's-nesting; and we still think that it is much ado about next to nothing. Still, as the Sanitary Board has now committed itself to an investigation, and as we appear to have correspondents who regard the matter seriously, we may not err in giving some consideration to the existing arrangement, and to the aspects of it which appear to require investigation. Taking the only list of which we have any knowledge, that published in the Saturday

issues of this journal, it is important to point out that its modest claim is to represent the "average market prices", or the approximate mean of the prices ruling at the time of its compilation and correction. However and by whomsoever such a list were prepared, it should never be taken as an accurate index of actual charges; and it is probable that persons who have been inconsiderately doing so were the first to raise doubts as to the value of an admittedly useful compilation. The advantage of having it appear over the imprimatur of the MARKET INSPECTOR is that its users can understand the source of the information upon which the averages or approximations have been based. The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON appears to us to have overlooked this when he submitted the curious suggestion that as the MARKET INSPECTOR had no power to make stall-holders adhere to their own quotations, he should desist from telling the public what those quotations were. Is there any suspicion of "squeeze" entertained against stall-holders and compradores, would it not be playing into the hands of the squeezers to abandon an old-established practice, and to allow lists of quotations to appear without any impartial and able supervision whatever? For anyone less experienced than the MARKET INSPECTOR to go to collect the necessary data would involve the production of some remarkable averages, as those accustomed to Chinese quotations will readily and perhaps ruefully admit. As a guide to what things are obtainable, and their approximate cost, sufficiently accurate by which to make up housekeeping accounts and to check the compradore or the "boy" or the cook (who are all keenly interested in what the foreign price list tells "Missy"), the list as at present managed is justified of itself, and it would be a pity, from the public point of view, to interfere with the status quo. In any case, supposing such a list were to be corrected and published every day, under the best possible authentication, there would still be complaints from people who overlook elementary facts. How can any intelligent person expect that prices published in Saturday morning's paper (of goods whose value fluctuates in sympathy with daily supply and demand) indicate just what the stall-holder will ask an hour or so later? All it can do is to give them a fair idea how much "terminological inexactitude" the boy who did the previous marketing was guilty of; and a reasonable estimate of the expenditure on ensuing purchases. If there were any question of collusion between the stall-holders and the compilers of the lists, which there is not, we could better understand the position of those who demand an investigation. But what can the investigation show? That Chinese tradesmen often ask more than the list price? Surely that has always been a well understood practice, and one for which there is a remedy, tedious though it may be. A correspondent informs us that "some people correct their compradore's charges in accordance with the newspaper list, and these corrections are accepted without a protest"! Those appear to be wiser people than the others who meekly accept the bigger quotations, and attribute their disappointment to the supposed quotational inexactitude of the official tariff. This, however, also needs a little modification. Such deviations, as we have already pointed out, are not always necessarily "squeeze". The price must and does fluctuate from time to time, and it is impossible to have a list to which tradesmen

could be reasonably bound for any period whatever. It has also been said that the trouble is just the contrary; that the listed prices are too high, and that servants purchase goods in the market for less than "market rates". In either case, the argument stands that the prices are at best approximate averages, and have been generally so understood. We have little doubt that the Sanitary Board and the member who raised the question will agree after investigation that they may do worse things than to let well alone.

IMPERIAL VETO AND THE COLONIES.

(*Daily Press, 4th May.*)

WHEN the question of Chinese labour in the Transvaal first came under discussion, we took occasion to point out the serious results which might ensue from the persistent opposition which was made at home, for party purposes, to a measure which, in its main bearings, was clearly one of purely Colonial interest and ought to have been left to the decision of the Colony concerned, except so far as it might interfere with Imperial interests or conflict with recognised Imperial principles. The warning which we then ventured to raise, as to the danger of such interference by the Home Government, has proved to be well founded sooner than might have been anticipated. The Liberal Party, who commenced the interference when they were in the opposition, have declared their intention, as far as they possibly can, to maintain it now that they are in power; and, though the ridiculous charges as to "Chinese Slavery", which served so well at the Hustings, have had to be disowned, the UNDER-SECRETARY for the COLONIES did not hesitate to state that the present Government will use the "Veto" to prevent any laws being passed by the Transvaal, after that Colony has been granted responsible Government, should such laws not be in harmony with the views of Downing Street. If Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL had desired to sound the note, which, of all others, would raise opposition in South Africa, he could not have hit upon one more certain to produce this result. The only point at which the Home Government would be justified in interfering in a measure of this kind in a Colony having responsible Government would be that a given statute which was sent home for the Crown's approval was contrary to fundamental principles, by unduly curtailing the rights of any who were under the protection of the British Flag—in fact that it contained something in the nature of the "slavery" which has been so much harped upon. As it is admitted by the Government that the statements on this point were gross exaggerations, and that really only a few details of the existing Ordinance require altering to enable the system as at present existing to be approved by them, the threats as to the exercise of the "Veto" were, to say the least, ill-timed and ill-advised. It is not surprising that strong feeling has been evoked in South Africa on the subject, and that utterances of the most severe character have been made, in quarters hitherto most careful to uphold the authority of the mother country. Of course we may expect that the declaration of the UNDER SECRETARY for the COLONIES will be in due course toned down very considerably, and it will no doubt be declared to mean nothing in the way of the exercise of the "Veto", which is not in accordance with constitutional principles. Indeed, effectively, it cannot mean more. But unfortunately the mass of people are

certain to read the statement differently, and thus a feeling of impatience at any interference at Headquarters is certain to be induced, which may act most injuriously on occasions when such a check is necessary and legitimate, and even so far as it may be so in the present instance. The new UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE for the COLONIES cannot be congratulated upon possessing the qualities which are most required in dealing with the Colonies, namely, those of tactfulness and consideration. Posing as an advanced Liberal, he has apparently shown himself behind the age, and it may be added also out of harmony with the traditions of the Colonial Office itself. Of late years at all events the exercise of the "Veto" has been most carefully restrained, and it has been the recognised object of the Colonial Office to refrain from recommending that course, unless it is absolutely necessary so do so. Even with regard to Crown Colonies, where such a step is more justifiable seeing that the Crown is directly responsible for their Government, it has been the practice of late years not to disallow Ordinances, which have received the sanction of the local legislature, unless there is very strong ground for such a course; and naturally this principle has been still more carefully adhered to in respect to self-governing Colonies. It is only upon this basis that the Home Government can hope to retain its power over the Colonies; and it is certainly to be deeply regretted that the slightest hint should be given that the rights of a self-governing Colony would be in any way curtailed. It is sincerely to be hoped that the COLONIAL SECRETARY will be able to find some means of restraining the *trop de zèle* of his second in office. The incident shows that there is much truth in the objection that it was undesirable that the SECRETARY for the COLONIES should be out of the House of Commons, as the matters with which he has to deal are of such a nature that the lower House is much better qualified to deal with them than the upper House. It is difficult to believe that the COLONIAL SECRETARY himself would have indulged in such unfortunate language as his deputy thought fit to make use of. In the present day a public official speaks not only to the country but to the whole world; and utterances of this kind are calculated to do an infinite amount of harm. When a paper so thoroughly imperial in its tone as the *Cape Times* says that "if Mr. CHURCHILL's utterances were to be taken as a sincere and accurate guide as to his future attitude towards South African questions, then in a few years there would be no necessity for anybody to cut the painter, as it would drop in the ocean for mere lack of will on the part of anybody at this end to hold it firm", it is manifest that things have been brought to a point at which it behoves prudent men to take warning. It is to be hoped that wiser counsels will do something to mitigate the feeling that has been aroused; but unfortunately the matter does not end here. The feeling has been produced, and the threat which has been made will not be forgotten either in the Colony immediately affected, or in other British Colonies, who are equally concerned in the maintenance of their right to manage their internal affairs as they deem fit. It is time enough to think of "veto-ing" a statute when it has been passed by the local legislature, and is sent to the Colonial Office with such observations as the GOVERNOR of the Colony concerned thinks fit to make upon it. To talk of "Veto" before the measure has been drafted is to prejudge the whole matter, and is an entirely new procedure, which can hardly

be expected to be assented to by self-governing Colonies. It may be that the utterance of Mr. CHURCHILL has been taken a little too seriously by the Colonists concerned, and that, making allowance for the heat of debate, it may be considered that he merely wished to convey that if the Transvaal, when it obtains responsible Government, did not pay due regard to the suggestions which the Home Government had made, it would run the risk of having whatever measure was passed by the Parliament "vetoed". If this was all he intended to convey, there is not much to object to, but it is to be regretted he did not make this intimation in a manner less likely to be seriously misunderstood.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

30th April.

It was with a feeling of real pleasure that I read the report in Saturday's Press of the Puisne Judge taking a solicitor to task for statements he had made at the Police Court in reference to certain proceedings at the Supreme Court. Of course we are all aware that legal practitioners enjoy a considerable privilege when engaged in their profession, but we sometimes wish they did not exercise it to the extent that they do. For instance, in this case it was quite unnecessary for the solicitor in question to go out of his way to say that the newspaper accounts of the action in the Supreme Court were altogether false. A certain amount of reflection was cast on the journals implicated because of this insinuation, but happily the Puisne Judge, with a sense of fairness which is certain to add to his popularity, came to the rescue and declared that he spoke even more strongly than he was reported. With a certain historical character we would say "A most excellent judge."

As I predicted a few weeks ago, the Chamber of Commerce displayed unanimity in their election of a gentleman to fill the vacancy in their representation on the Legislative Council caused by the absence on leave of Mr. Robert Shewan. On two previous occasions Mr. Hewett has tried for the honourable position and it must be very acceptable now to find himself a member of the Legislative Council without having been met with any further opposition. He has the confidence of the Chamber of Commerce, and doubtless he will prove that he is worthy of it

We are to be favoured with another Royal visit soon. On this occasion the expected guest is a member of the Royal Family of Italy, Prince Ferdinando of Udino, who is quite a youth and is at present a midshipman on board an Italian battleship. It is perhaps interesting in this connection to recall the last visit of a member of the Italian Royal Family, the Duke d' Abruzzi, in December, 1904, who presided at the meeting of the Society for the Abolition of Torture in China, as reported at the annual meeting of the Society for this year held last week. The Duke is best remembered, however, by the fact that he penetrated nearer to the North Pole in 1900 than had ever been done before, beating Nansen's previous record.

A correspondent sends me the following: More than once I have heard the question asked—Why should the Happy Valley be closed to sports on Sunday? The first time I heard it answered was the other day when a friend declared that it was the result of clerical intervention. Now this appears an instance where such interference is not only uncalled for but quite impertinent. In this cosmopolitan community with its mixture of peoples from all parts of the globe and their variety of creeds the least thing one should expect is toleration, respect for the different opinions which are as dear to their holders as those of the members of the several Christian churches, but the bigotry which insists on everybody conforming to the one religious ideal has not apparently been discarded, even in this age of

enlightenment and liberty. Personally, I have little interest in the matter, as my Sundays are spent in my own particular way, but I fail to see why our unorthodox friends and those who adhere to the other Eastern faiths cannot be allowed to enjoy their games and exercises on practically the only day open to them. A word to those responsible might have the effect of inducing them to extend to the people most directly interested a little of that freedom which they claim for themselves.

I suppose it struck most people who read the report that it was incongruous that a Volunteer in Penang who joined the force for two years should be expected to serve until he was 55 years of age or left the Colony. The argument that "not less than two years" means more than two years is absurd, and if the contention of the authorities is upheld by the Court it will seriously affect the Volunteer movement. No man will care to identify himself with a force which states the period of service to be not less than two years and yet expects him to remain longer, and not merely expects but compels him. The movement is one that calls for every encouragement, but such proceedings will do it infinite harm. Fortunately a more sensible method is pursued in Hongkong, as a result of which the corps justifies its proud claim "Second to none in the Orient"

The people in a certain hospital had a rather uncanny experience the other day when an apparently dead body was found on the steps. The police were acquainted with the discovery, but when the officer arrived the body was not to be found. The doctor expressed his regret, he did not indicate whether it was sorrow that the officer had been disappointed or that the man had evidently returned to life. There were all the elements of a mystery here, but a detective soon cleared matters up and had the supposed corpse arrested on a charge of being a rogue and a vagabond.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 1st at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present—Dr. W. W. Pearce, M.O.H., Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Lieut. Col. Sparkes, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

COMPLIMENTARY.

The PRESIDENT said—Before proceeding with the business I am sure you will wish me to extend on your behalf a welcome to the new member of the Board, Lieut. Colonel Sparkes, who occupies the position formerly occupied by Lieut. Colonel Josling. Perhaps I may also be allowed to congratulate Mr. Hewett on his promotion to the Legislative Council (applause). Mr. HEWETT expressed his thanks.

CANTON MORTALITY STATISTICS.

H. E. the Governor wrote the Consul General at Canton as under with regard to mortality statistics:—Sir, I have the honour to request that you will obtain if possible from the Commissioner of Customs or other sources a monthly return of the deaths in the City of Canton and transmit same to this Government for the information of the Hongkong Sanitary Board. I should also be obliged by your informing me whether there is any more recent official or non-official estimate of the population of the city than the census of 1895, and if so what is the number of inhabitants according to that estimate and whether in your opinion it may be taken to be approximately correct. I enclose a report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Sanitary Board at which it was resolved that this Government should be asked to ascertain the rate of mortality per 1,000 of the population in Canton.

The Governor forwarded the Consul's reply to this letter for the Board's information. It read—With reference to your Excellency's letter I have the honour to inform you that I have made careful enquiries from the Customs and other sources, but I regret to state that it would be a matter of impossibility to obtain a monthly return of deaths in Canton, especially as deaths are never reported to the officials.

There has been a recent census, but it is confined only to certain areas, and does not include the floating boat population, Honam, nor the villages in the outskirts. The estimate is 90,000 houses with an average of ten persons in each house. In regard to paragraph three of your letter, no percentage of mortality is obtainable. There have been some cases of plague in the western suburb; yet most cases that have come under the notice of the Customs Authorities are imported from Hongkong evidently due to the fact that the Chinaman prefers to die in his own country.

Mr. HUMPHREYS minuted—The framers of the Public Health Ordinance, 1903 will no doubt note the British Consul's statement that most of the deaths from plague reported in Canton are imported from Hongkong.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—According to the last paragraph of the Consul General's reply, it evidently contradicts the often repeated allegations that plague cases are imported from Canton.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—I don't agree with the Consul General that the Chinese prefer to die in their own country. I am inclined to think that it is more on account of the stringency of the Sanitary measures and the consequent concealment of cases to avoid detection of their place of abode that they send their sick to the country.

Mr. BADELEY—The Consul General only says, "most of the cases that come under the notice of the customs" are imported from Hongkong. This does not contradict the theory that plague cases are also imported here from Canton.

The PRESIDENT—The Customs authorities deal with ships arriving at Canton, hence cases of plague or any other disease occurring in the city are not likely to come under their notice.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I understood recently that all the houses in Canton were numbered, and the number of people being in each house recorded. If the British Consul General is asked to approach the Provincial Government he may be able to arrange for the required information to be supplied.

MACAO MORTALITY STATISTICS.

In reply to a letter from the Hongkong Government, the Health Officer of Macao forwarded the mortality statistics of that island based on a death-rate per 1,000 per annum. The percentage shows the death-rate to be 33.1.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

The reply from the Government to the Board's recommendation concerning inspection of Crown land and Government buildings by officers of the Sanitary Department, was circulated.

The PRESIDENT—The Government have acceded to the request of the Sanitary Board that all Government buildings be inspected by the officers of this department.

CORRESPONDENCE FORMS.

The Committee appointed at the suggestion of Mr. Shelton Hooper to consider the forms of the Board's correspondence papers, more particularly with regard to the issue of notices, was submitted, from which it appeared that the recommendations of the Secretary had been practically endorsed.

The PRESIDENT said it had been thought better to issue two reports. There were two distinct matters. One referred to the procedure to be adopted in future by the Secretary, and the other dealt with the specific complaints made by Mr. Hooper and Mr. Humphreys who had received letters threatening legal proceedings if certain work was not done. The Committee went into the matter very carefully and their report covered all that needed to be said. He begged to move the adoption of the report. If either Mr. Hooper or Mr. Humphreys felt there was anything further needed in the shape of an apology that would no doubt be forthcoming.

Mr. HOOPER said he was perfectly satisfied with the investigation. He was sure that the Secretary made a bona fide statement when he said the two parties had received two previous notices.

The reports were adopted.

PLAGUE PROCEDURE.

The letter from Mr. Lau Chu Pak relative to plague procedure, and a minute by Mr. Humphreys having been read,

[May 5, 1906]

The President said if Mr. Humphreys had been present he would have felt inclined to ask him to inform the Board of those startling cases to which he referred. Where such cases came under notice they ought to be brought before the Board so that they could be investigated (hear, hear). The press had been filled lately by talk about complaints but there had been few specific cases, one or two had been investigated and dealt to the best of their ability. The executive officers had no desire to render the lives of people in the Colony uncomfortable but there was an Ordinance to be administered and so far as maybe he believed they tried to carry out that Ordinance faithfully. If specific cases of neglect came before them they ought to be reported and then they could be dealt with. If they were reported the public might rely on them being investigated and if anyone was found guilty of conduct which was a breach of duty he would be punished.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK, in terms of notice, moved the motion standing in his name for the appointment of a committee to investigate such matters.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN seconded.

Mr. HEWETT considered such a committee quite unnecessary, as His Excellency had appointed a committee, consisting of five members, to deal with all cases of complaint which might be brought before it with regard to the working of the Building Ordinance. It seemed to him that the complaints to which Mr. Lau Chu-Pak referred might very well fall within the province of that committee, of which he was the chairman. That being so Mr. Lau Chu-Pak might be well advised to withdraw his resolution.

Mr. Lau Chu-Pak withdrew his motion.

PLAQUE AT CANTON.

The *Daily Press* report regarding plague at Canton was submitted. It stated that there were 50 or 60 plague cases per day in the Chinese city, and that with the prevailing weather conditions the number of cases was likely to increase.

Mr. HUMPHREYS minuted—The population of Canton is supposed to be one and a quarter millions; our population is about one-fifth of that. 60 deaths a day does not make Canton out to be in a much worse plight than ourselves.

A NUISANCE AT THE ABERDEEN PAPER MILL.

The following minute by the M.O.H. was read:—The Paper Mill at Aberdeen has for a long time been discharging the waste water into the tidal inlet on the shore of which it is built. This causes a very offensive smell, especially at low water. The waste from paper mills, especially from such as use old rags for the production of paper is amongst the most offensive of trade waste products. This discharge of waste is illegal under paragraph 26 (9) of the Public Health and Building Ordinance of 1903. Will the Board issue a notice calling upon the paper manufacturers to abate this nuisance by taking such steps to so treat their waste waters as to render their discharge into the water course inoffensive?

It was decided that a notice to abate the nuisance be served on the parties.

MARKET PRICES.

A minute was circulated by the C. V. S. relative to sending the lists of market prices to the papers by the Inspector of Markets. It appeared that in one newspaper—not the *Daily Press*—the prices of some goods had been altered, and it was recommended that the list should not be signed by the Inspector of Markets. He further submitted that the practice of sending lists to the newspapers should be discontinued by the Inspector as he had no control over the prices and was therefore placed in a false position in the eyes of the public, if the stallholders chose to charge higher prices than those they informed him were ruling.

A discussion took place as to whether the signature of the Inspector of Markets be appended to the list, but Mr. Hooper thought it should stand over until the matter had been investigated.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the Hon. Mr. CHATHAM, a committee was appointed to investigate the subject.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, reported that plans had been deposited and passed by him during the quarter for the drainage of 30 houses, while plans for 219 houses were carried

forward from 1905, making a total of 249 in hand. The drainage of 60 houses had been completed, leaving 188 to carry forward. Certificates had been granted under Section 84 of Ordinance 13 of 1901 stating that 37 new houses had been built in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance. The drains of 134 houses had been inspected and reported on: of these 75 required reconstruction and fifteen amending. In addition to the above 1,917 houses have been inspected by drainage inspectors with the result that 336 drainage nuisances have been discovered. 140 choked drain-raps on private property had been cleansed by drainage foremen.

BEACONSFIELD ARCADE RE-OPENED.

Correspondence relative to the re-opening of Beaconsfield Arcade was laid on the table, the Arcade having been re-opened after completion of the disinfecting.

DELIMITATION OF DUTIES.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of the necessity for an additional sanitary inspector and an additional foreman of street cleaners for Kowloon. The communication from the Government stated that there was no reason to alter the present procedure as it was a saving of labour in which sanitary inspectors were called upon to perform certain duties for the Building Authority.

A LANE OBSTRUCTED.

Correspondence was laid before the Board dealing with defective brickwork in a narrow lane at the rear of U. Yam Lane.

Mr. Tooker, of the P.W.D., said he had inspected the brickwork of the lane in question, which was on private land. It abutted against the lease of an old stone retaining wall on the top of which was built the back wall of high Chinese houses facing Lascar Row. Except that it might protect the footings from exposure he was of opinion that it did not afford much support to the retaining wall and he considered it would be removed without danger if carefully done. Perhaps it could be dealt with under the Building Ordinance.

Mr. HEWETT minuted—If there is any doubt as to our power to deal with this obstruction, the Crown Solicitor should be consulted. If the obstruction is illegal it of course must be removed, and the owner is responsible for this. It is absurd to ask the Board if they would accept the responsibility.

PLAQUE INFECTED PREMISES.

The M.O.H. recommended the Board to close houses Nos. 33 to 59 (odd numbers only) Station Street, Mongkoktsui, as unfit for human habitation, being rat infected and six cases of plague having occurred therein.

The recommendation was approved.

MASONIC.

The sixteenth annual Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Hongkong and South China was held at the Freemasons' Hall on April 30th, when M. E. Companion T. F. Hough, who had been appointed as District Second Grand Principal, presided, and invested the following officers: District Third Grand Principal, M. E. Comp. G. A. Caldwell; District Grand Scribe E., M. E. Comp. A. O'D. Gourdin; District Grand Scribe N., M. E. Comp. E. T. Bond; District Grand President B. of G. P., M. E. Comp. R. Mitchell; District Grand Treasurer, M. E. Comp. F. W. Clark; District Grand Registrar, M. E. Comp. B. B. Harker; District Grand Sojourner, M. E. J. G. Gotz; District Grand First Assist. Sojourner, M. E. E. A. Stanton; District Grand Second Assist. Sojourner, M. E. Comp. E. H. Ray; District Grand Sword Bearer, M. E. Comp. H. Bathurst; District Grand Standard Bearer, M. E. Comp. H. G. Baker; District Grand Standard Bearer, E. Comp. A. H. Hyland; District Grand Standard Bearer, M. E. Comp. F. W. Kruse; District Grand Standard Bearer, E. Comp. C. H. Grace; District Grand Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp. R. D. Thomas; District Grand Dep. Director of Ceremonies, E. Comp. J. W. Graham; District Grand Assistant of Ceremonies, E. Comp. E. H. Sharp; District Grand Organist, Comp. C. W. Longuet; District Janitor, Comp. J. Vanstone.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, April 30th.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND LIEUT. MC CALLAN, R.N. (NAUTICAL ASSISOR).

S.S. "BRAND" v. S.S. "DAINI KOTOHIRA MARU."

In this cross-action his Lordship has to decide which of the two vessels is liable to damages for the collision between them which occurred off Pedro Blanco on March 20th.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the owners of the s.s. *Brand*, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Hastings, appeared for the s.s. *Kotohira Maru* and freight.

Mr. Slade said the steamer *Brand* was proceeding from Chekiang to Canton via Hongkong with a general cargo. For the previous two days or so a fog prevailed along the China coast, and the *Brand* had been navigated according to the whistles heard from other vessels in the neighbourhood. She whistled from a minute and a half to two minutes continually and when the whistles of other vessels were heard she whistled in answer as she proceeded steadily on her course. On the morning of the collision it had been clear till 3 a.m., but between that hour and 4 a.m. it was foggy, and the fog continued. During the middle watch, while it was clear, the captain had been off the bridge, but as soon as they ran into the fog he went on to it. At that time the Chief Officer was on the watch, and both he and the Captain remained on the bridge until 4 a.m., when the Chief Officer appeared at that time to relieve him, and then the whistle, which subsequently turned out to be that of the *Kotohira Maru* was heard, evidently on the port quarter of the *Brand*. During the succeeding hour—the hour before five—the whistle from the other steamer was heard gradually drawing on the *Brand*, always on her port side, until about five o'clock she was abreast. By this time the *Brand* was drawing near Pedro Blanco, and the Captain was doubtful as to where he was exactly, more particularly because his course by dead reckoning did not coincide by a considerable distance with the course which he made by his rather doubtful observation of the previous afternoon: the weather when he took that observation was hazy. His position by his observation and by dead reckoning was doubtful, therefore it became necessary for him to find out his exact position by soundings. Approaching Pedro Blanco it was comparatively easy to check a distance from the coast by soundings and for a master to learn, fairly accurately, where he was. At 5 a.m. the log was hauled in and the position marked off on the chart. The captain then began to sound and the vessel was stopped. As soon as the weight was altered sufficiently to enable the lead to get to the bottom before the ship had over-run it, the captain was able to find his position. In order to make quite sure of keeping clear of the island he altered his course one point to starboard to get further towards the open sea. Meanwhile he heard the *Kotohira Maru* drawing further forward. He assumed she would have to alter her course for Hongkong, so to prevent any possibility of a collision he went slowly, about a four knot speed. While he was thus proceeding he heard the whistle of the *Kotohira Maru* forward; the last time he heard it, it was about four points on his bow, and sounded rather louder than it had before. The captain put that down to a trick of the fog, or the wind which had changed shortly before that time from west to south-west. So certain was he that the other vessel had drawn clear ahead that he rang up the engine-room to go from slow to half speed. The engineer did not go at half speed at the time because his fires were not sufficiently large to enable him to keep up the steam required. Two or three minutes after the whistle was heard the *Kotohira Maru* suddenly collided with the *Brand*. The intervals between the blast of the former vessel's whistle were at times irregular and unduly long. The consequences of the collision were that the *Brand* was nearly sunk,

her decks being turned over until they were almost water-washed. The differences in the preliminary act as to place and time were not in any way clear. The speed of the *Kotohira Maru* was about eight and a half knots, and she admitted that she was to blame. Therefore the only question his Lordship had to decide was whether or not the *Brand* was also to blame.

Captain Evenson, sworn, said he held a master's certificate for five months, the *Brand* being his first ship (witness produced the chart he had used on the night of the collision, on which he had outlined his course). To check his position he made several soundings, as the observations he took were not good owing to the hazy weather. At three o'clock he went on the bridge because it was foggy. An hour afterwards he heard a faint whistle on his port quarter; at five o'clock he heard it a little before his port beam. Up till six o'clock he was giving his vessel a speed of six knots and the other vessel a speed of eight and a half knots. The other vessel was nearest him when abreast the *Brand's* beam. At five o'clock he gave the second mate orders to sound. The engines were stopped and the soundings made, which showed twenty-two and a half fathoms. The ship was stopped for about five minutes, but her weigh did not stop entirely. When they had finished sounding he again heard a whistle about three points forward of his beam. He put his engines slow ahead and altered his course one point to the south in order to be certain of clearing Pedro Blanco. The *Brand* was then not making more than four knots. She was under command, but was slow to the helm when deep loaded. About three minutes before the collision he heard a whistle about three points on the port bow; it sounded a little louder than before. He concluded from the whistle that the other vessel was drawing ahead. The wind carried the sound of the whistle to him. He signalled the engine-room to half speed, but the order was not obeyed. He did not hear a whistle between the two mentioned, the time between them being about five minutes. Previous to this he heard an irregular blowing of whistles from the other vessel. He whistled regularly all the time, the intervals between the blasts being not longer than two minutes. He answered the last blast from the other steamer, after the ordinary interval he whistled again, and a minute afterwards he saw the green and masthead lights of the other steamer about two points on his port bow. He ordered the engines full speed astern and blew three whistles. The engines did not answer, and about half a minute from the time he saw the other vessel the collision occurred. Witness thought the *Kotohira Maru* had passed him, and it was unusual for a vessel to go back on her course: it was also unusual for a vessel to go to anchor in such a place in foggy weather. The *Brand's* bow was badly damaged by the collision and she took a heavy list. At the time their rail went under water, but when she got free they still had a list of 25 degrees. Witness went forward and saw the damage, after which he gave orders to lower the boats. The crew took to the boats, and he called the carpenter to go back on board and sound the hold. They found there was no water in the ship, so he sent the engineer down to get up steam and they went along at slow speed and eventually reached the harbour. It took him nearly two days to reach Hongkong, a distance of 68 miles. The vessel's bow was very much broken in, being bent over to starboard.

Cross-examined—When he first saw the *Kotohira Maru* the ships were much too close to avoid the collision. The *Brand* cut deeply into the *Kotohira Maru*; the cut was a little slanting from the bow aft. The *Brand's* port bow was smashed in entirely, and his stem was bent over to starboard. The officer of the watch wrote the rough log on the *Brand*; the entries in it were mostly put in at the time the events happened. The Chief Officer wrote the clean log, generally at the end of the day. His vessel had no official log. He sounded at 5.10 a.m. in order to find out how close he was to Pedro Blanco, as he was afraid he might run on to the island. Witness knew if he got less than 18 fathoms by sounding he was too close to Pedro Blanco. With a sounding of 22 fathoms he steered out in order to be quite sure he was clear of the island. When

he finished his soundings at 4 o'clock he went ahead at half-speed, about seven knots. After the five o'clock soundings he went slow to give the *Kotohira Maru* a chance of getting ahead. That vessel's course then was about three points forward of his port beam. He gave the order half-speed when the *Kotohira Maru*'s whistle sounded about four points on his beam; he then thought she was going ahead. The Chief Officer of the *Kotohira Maru* boarded the *Brand* after the collision, and there was some discussion as to how it happened. He told witness they attributed the collision to the *Brand* not whistling properly.

Further evidence was heard and the case adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR GOODS SOLD.

The case was concluded in which R. H. Mahomed sued D. Maher to recover the sum of \$13.85 for goods sold and delivered.

R. Mahomed said the defendant ordered the goods and signed the note (produced) as security.

Defendant admitted signing the note, but contended that the bill was paid.

His Lordship—You say you signed this as guarantor? If he puts a 50 cent stamp on you have still got to pay.

Defendant—That case was settled some time ago.

His Lordship—I adjourned the summons the other day.

Defendant—That is a different case, my Lord. I paid the amount twice.

His Lordship—Can you produce a recipt?

Defendant—I have not got one, but Mahomed's collector told me that the account was settled.

His Lordship—Can you tell me about when?

Defendant—During last month.

His Lordship (referring to writ)—I see this writ was endorsed and signed Mahomed on March 23rd. Then the word "Mahomed" is struck out and it is initialled, so there may be something to go on. The summary register book was then referred to, and this showed that the case had been settled.

Plaintiff, recalled, said there were two similar accounts.

His Lordship—For the same amount and containing the same items?

Plaintiff—The other bill belongs to Dr. Moore, or some name like that.

His Lordship—I am very sorry for you, but you cannot succeed in this case. There will be judgment for the defendant with costs.

Tuesday, May 1st.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE), AND LIEUT. McCALLUM, R.N. (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

S.S. "BRAND" v. S.S. "DAINI KOTOHIRA MARU."

The action to decide which of these two vessels was liable to damages for the collision off Pedro Blanco was continued.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the *Brand*, and Mr. F. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. John Hastings, represented the *Daini Kotohira Maru*.

Mr. Sharp said the *Daini Kotohira Maru* was the old P. and O. s.s. *Nanking*, and on this occasion was on her way to Hongkong from Japan. On March 18th fog was encountered which continued with occasional intermissions, and varying density until the collision. The speed of the Japanese vessel was 8½ knots. On the morning of March 20 the Chief Officer went on watch. There were then two quartermasters and an apprentice on the bridge and a seaman on the fo'castle keeping a lookout. The fog was dense and the *Daini Kotohira Maru* was continually and regularly blowing her whistle. The only whistle from another ship which was heard was about five minutes past four. For a very short time they heard this whistle on the starboard side forward of the beam. At 4.20 the whistle was

abait the beam, two points or so, and then ceased. By this the captain assumed that the ship was going slowly up the coast, but from the evidence it is possible that the whistle came from the *Brand*. He could not admit it was from the *Brand*, but even if so it stopped at 4.20, fifty-five minutes before the collision. If it was the *Brand's* whistle, then the vessel would have been following a not uncommon practice on the China coast of blowing her whistle when in close proximity to another vessel, and stopping when the ship was clear. When approaching Pedro Blanco the captain of the Japanese vessel went on deck intending to anchor, as the fog was very dense. At five minutes past five he considered it dangerous to proceed and as there were no other ships' whistles audible, nor had been for three-quarters of an hour, he decided to go closer to shore and anchor in shallow water. He proceeded north for ten minutes (covering about 1½ or 1¾ miles), whistling regularly, when suddenly the *Brand's* red and mast-head lights came into view and at the same moment he heard her whistle for the first time, unless the former whistle was the *Brand's*. There was no time then to avoid collision, but the *Daini Kotohira Maru* in order to minimise the impact starboarded her helm, in the hope that the other vessel would port her when there might have been a possibility of avoiding the collision. Whilst starboarding the captain of the *Kotohira Maru* saw the green light come into view. The collision occurred, the *Brand* striking the *Kotohira Maru* with great force. Mr. Sharp submitted that the captain of the *Brand* completely miscalculated the position of the other vessel during the ten minutes prior to the collision. He imagined the *Kotohira Maru* to be getting further and further away on a similar course, while the Japanese vessel was approaching all the time. He further submitted that the *Brand's* speed was excessive for so dense a fog, and he would contend that the admitted speed was understated. Both under article 16 and under the principles of good seamanship (article 29) the *Brand* should have stopped when she heard the *Daini Kotohira Maru's* whistle on her port bow; when the Japanese vessel was in fact approaching her. That the *Brand* altered her course to port at 5.10 when the *Kotohira Maru* was approaching on the port bow was wrong, and in fact caused the collision.

Evidence was led and the Court adjourned.

Wednesday, May 2nd.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND LIEUT. MC CALLUM, R.N. (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

S.S. "BRAND" v. S.S. "DAINI KOTOHIRA MARU."

The hearing of this action, in which his Lordship was asked to decide who was to blame for the collision between these vessels off Pedro Blanco, was continued.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), represented the "Brand", and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for the "Kotohira Maru".

Mr. Sharp called

Mr. Carmichael, superintendent of Messrs. Jebsen and Co., who said it was the custom at sea to clean out fires immediately after the watch. This took about twenty minutes, and the fires fell about 2 lbs. The maximum fall in a vessel like the "Brand" would make a difference in the speed of from three-quarters of a knot to a knot. If the ship stopped for five minutes, the steam pressure would go up.

Cross-examined—Witness considered the damage before coming to the conclusion that the "Brand" must have been travelling at six knots. The displacement of the "Brand" fully loaded would be about 5,000 tons, and that of the "Kotohira Maru" about 12,000 tons. If the "Kotohira Maru" had been at rest and the other ship moving, she would have cut right into her. Part of the damage to the "Kotohira" was due to the speed and weight of the "Kotohira Maru". The stem of the "Brand", witness thought, was bent to starboard when the vessels collided. The

effect of striking a still object at an angle of about forty-five degrees would not necessarily cause that object to bend to port. He did not think the twisting of the "Brand's" bow and plates to starboard was caused by the speed of the "Kotohira Maru". The angle of the cut was about 45 degrees, and the cut was about 20 feet deep. A ship of the class of the "Brand" stopping her engines at six knots would not do more than three knots in 25 minutes before stopping, and in seven minutes she would take from a minute to a minute and a half to get from slow to half speed. When they received this order engineers generally put on the indicator to full speed and then reduced. It would take 25 to 30 minutes to clean a fire, and if the coal was not of good quality the steam would go down quicker. Witness had seen 30 or 40 damaged ships, and from his experience he concluded that the "Brand" must have been travelling at more than four knots when the collision occurred.

His Lordship—If the "Brand" has forced draught, full speed could be got up from ten to fifteen minutes.

Captain Arachi, recalled, said he heard a whistle from the "Brand" at the same time as he saw her light. He thought the "Brand" starboarded her helm before striking his vessel. He saw the "Brand" before she was repaired; her stem was knocked over to starboard and her port bow smashed in. After the collision witness stopped his engines and sent his Chief Officer on board the "Brand". He intended to sound because he was going to anchor. During the last ten minutes after altering his course his whistle was sounding regularly, because he knew he was crossing the course of any vessel which might be going up the coast. He did not observe any change of wind before the collision, in fact there was very little wind, it was nearly calm.

Cross-examined—Witness went to his cabin about 12 o'clock, and left instructions with the officer of the watch to call him if anything uncommon happened. After four o'clock the officer reported a whistle on the starboard bow. The captain ordered him to take the bearing of the other vessel carefully.

He had a printed copy on board of the articles for the prevention of collisions at sea. Several whistles were heard from the time of the first whistle on the starboard bow until the other vessel was abeam. He did not go on deck to ascertain her position. Japanese vessels were required to steam at a moderate pace in a fog, take the bearings of other vessels in the vicinity and navigate accordingly. He was running at eight and a half knots because he saw no other vessel; he considered this a moderate speed for the China coast, but if vessels were crossing the steamer track it would be a little quick. This voyage was an unlucky one for his ship. He had another collision just after leaving Nagasaki. Witness knew the English and Japanese regulations for the prevention of collisions were the same; in foggy weather it was necessary to sound a long blast at least every two minutes. Were his vessel stationary in the open sea he would blow his whistle twice every two minutes. Before altering his course just prior to the collision he began to sound his whistle. He did not go back on his course to go under the stern of the "Brand."

Thursday, May 3rd.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE SALE OF A NEWSPAPER.

This was an appeal from the decision of the Puisne Judge in the case of Tam Man Sam v. Tam Yau and Cheung Sau-pang, the original action being a claim for \$1,000, \$500 for return of money deposited by plaintiff with defendant on 2nd June, 1905, in part payment of purchase money for the business, property and effects of the Sai Kai Kung Yik Co., under contract, and \$500 for damages for breach of said contract. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. E. H. Beavis (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for appellants, and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Stevenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, and Deacon), appeared for respondents.

The Court decided as follows:—

The Chief Justice—The arguments on both sides were almost too learned for the case to carry, now we know the exact conditions of the contract as translated by the Court translator at the close of the case. The condition of things which was to result from the payment of the quarter of the purchase price was, speaking for myself, very difficult to understand, but it afterwards appeared that the business was to be carried on at the purchaser's charges and risk as from that date. But the right to control the printing and publishing of the newspapers was not to pass into his hands till the actual completion of the contract by the payment of the balance of the price. What happened when the one fourth was tendered was to my mind this:—The purchaser misinterpreted the meaning of the transfer of the business to him and went, if not exactly *vi et armis*, at least with his staff, to take up his position of proprietor and printer. If his action had rested there, and if all that happened on the subsequent day had been a determination of the contract by the vendors, I should have hesitated to hold this a repudiation by the purchaser involving a forfeiture of the deposit. But the learned Judge who tried this case was of opinion that he did intend to repudiate, and this of itself would have debarred me from coming to such a conclusion. Apart from this consideration, however, the relation in the case as to what happened on June 5th at the meeting of the vendors, at which the purchaser was present and their subsequent decision after he had left, seems to show clearly that the discussion must have been renewed and that the purchaser insisted on the erroneous interpretation of the contract. Even therefore, if the case were one in which I should be justified in reviewing the learned Judge's finding of fact, I should agree with that finding. I am of opinion that the contract remained uncompleted solely through the fault of the appellant. The appeal must therefore be dismissed with costs.

The Puisne Judge—This action was brought by the appellant (then plaintiff) before me in Summary Jurisdiction against the respondents (then defendants) for \$1,000, being as to \$500 thereof for the return of money deposited by the appellant on June 2nd in part payment of the Sai Kai Kung Yik Po Company, Limited (which is a newspaper company), contracted to be sold by the respondents to the appellant, and as to the balance of \$500 for damages for breach by the respondents of the said contract. I decided in favour of the respondents on both items, and the appellant has accepted my finding on the second item, and is only appealing on the first. The question came before the Full Court on a special case stated by the parties, and so far as this Court is concerned it is confined to the statements in that case. The facts are shortly as follows:—The respondents are the liquidators of the said newspaper business, and were desirous of selling the same. Tenders were asked for, and the appellant's tender of \$9,270 was accepted, subject to his previously depositing \$500, which he did on June 2nd. An agreement was entered into between the appellants and the respondent which contained, *inter alia*, the following clause:—"The purchaser (that is, the appellant) must pay one fourth of the price before three p.m. on June 4th or 5th (that is, within 48 hours) before the profit or loss of the business of this company and the expense of all descriptions can be taken over by the new man. It is decided that if the successful purchaser has first actually paid one fourth of the price, including the deposit money for the tender within 48 hours, the remainder of the price shall be paid and the transaction completed within ten days. If the transaction be not completed within due time all sums that have been paid shall be forthwith wholly forfeited. As regards the rights of printing and publishing, the same shall not be made over until the transaction has been completed". As I read this agreement the meaning is that after payment of the deposit the appellant had to pay one fourth (less deposit) of the purchase money by three p.m. on June 4th, and that he had ten days within which to pay the balance. That on payment of the one fourth, less deposit, the business was run at his risk up to the time that the balance of the purchase money was paid, and that on the payment of the balance he then became entitled

to possession. There is also the forfeiture clause I have read. The appellant, however, was of opinion that he would be entitled to possession on the payment of the one fourth (that is on June 4th). I decided that his reading of the agreement was wrong, and that portion of my judgment was not in dispute. Acting, however, on his mistaken assumption, the appellant tendered the one fourth (less deposit) on June 4th subject to the condition that he got immediate possession. The respondents naturally objected, and the appellant refused to pay and left with the money in his pocket. It must be noticed that this is not a case in which a man has failed to pay an installment in consequence of want of money, but a case in which a man with the money refuses to pay unless the contract is altered to his liking. I held that to be a flat repudiation of the agreement by the appellant. In my opinion the appellant meant to repudiate the contract unless he got his own way, and the respondents were quite justified in considering that he did so mean, and as they say they thereupon considered the matter ended. A night's consideration, however, took the appellant to his solicitors who, no doubt acting from instructions derived from the said erroneous assumption of the appellant as to his rights under the agreement, wrote a letter on June 5th. The effect of that letter roughly stated is that if the respondents did not fall in with the appellant's views that they (the solicitor) would commence legal proceedings at once to compel the respondents to complete the sale, and to recover damages which they estimated at \$1,000. There was no reply to that, and on June 14th (being the last day under ordinary circumstances for the completion of the agreement) the appellant's solicitors again wrote tendering the purchase money, less deposit, threatening (in case of refusal) legal proceedings for breach of contract. The arguments before us turned principally on the legal question as to whether in this case time was or was not of the essence of the contract; but I prefer to base my decision, as I did at the hearing, on the broad fact that the action of the appellant was a direct and intentional repudiation of the agreement as it actually existed, and an intimation that he would not carry it out unless altered to suit his own ideas. Under these circumstances I think the appeal ought to be dismissed with costs.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND LIEUT. McCALLUM, R.N. (NAUTICAL ASSESSOR).

S.S. "BRAND" v. S.S. "DAINI KOTOHIRA MARU."

The hearing of this action, in which his Lordship was asked to decide who was to blame, for the collision between these vessels off Pedro Blanco, was continued.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), represented the "Brand", and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for the "Kotohira Maru".

The evidence having concluded, Mr. Sharp addressed the Court. In the course of his address he argued on rule 16, which has reference to the sounding of the whistles of approaching steamers at sea in fog. This rule particularly states that when a whistle is heard from an approaching steamer, the position of which cannot be ascertained, it is the duty of the steamer bearing the whistle to stop. The Court called upon Mr. Slade to argue this point, heard him, and then retired.

On returning his Lordship held that this objection was fatal to the case of the "Brand", and that she was equally to blame for the collision.

The case was then adjourned *sine die*.

A recent traveller writes:—Hankow bids fair to outrival Hongkong, Shanghai, and Canton one of these fine days, and at no distant time. The railway now completed from there to Peking is certain to bring up and down an enormous amount of goods from the vast interior. As it is now there are few finer settlements in China. A fine broad, wide streets, large houses going up everywhere; a brisk trade, and more to come.

POLICE COURT.

Saturday, April 28th.

BEFORE MR. F. A. HAZELAND (FIRST POLICE MAGISTRATE),

THE MORPHINE SEIZURE.

The hearing of the claim for eleven cases of morphine confiscated by the Opium Farmer was continued.

Mr. F. B. Deacon (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the Farmer. Mr. J. Hastings represented the Kwong Wing Sang firm of Shanghai whose claim was for seven cases, and Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for Messrs. McEwen, Frickel and Co., the claimants of four cases.

Mr. Hastings—I take it, your Worship, that it is for the Opium Farmer now to prove the facts entitling him to an order?

His Worship—How?

Mr. Hastings—That is to say that the opium has been found without apparently being in the possession of any person.

His Worship—That is a legal point, as you submitted.

Mr. Hastings—But this is a re-hearing, your Worship.

His Worship—I understood the arrangement between the parties was that you should first call the owners to prove their claim.

Chu Yee-kam was called by Mr. Hastings. He said he was the managing partner of the Kwong Wing Sang, a Chinese firm carrying on business in Shanghai; he arrived in Hongkong on the 24th instant. His firm ordered certain morphia from England through a European firm in Shanghai. The marks produced were the marks of his firm, and were on seven cases of morphine, the property of that firm. The bills of lading for the goods were with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at Shanghai; they were pledged to the Bank for advances. The firm's usual course of business was to pay off these advances, get the bills of lading and send them here to his agent with instructions to land the goods pending further orders. The morphia was not intended for sale or use here but for exportation. He first heard of the seizure of his goods on the 20th instant.

By Mr. Deacon—He purchased the goods from Messrs. Thomas and Co. in Shanghai, to whom he paid the money. His contract was with this firm, and he had a contract in the present case. He knew the marks shown him were the marks of the cases consigned to him under the contract because he received a memo. of arrival containing them from Messrs. Thomas & Co. The goods were to be exported from Hongkong to various parts of China; such was his usual course of business for over two years, during which time he had imported about 1,000 lbs. of morphine. There were still twenty or thirty cases to arrive. His agents in Hongkong were the Yu Loong of Wing Kat Street; they were not licensed to deal in these goods, neither did they make any return of them at the Harbour Office. He heard of the seizure of these cases from his agents, and he came to Hongkong in consequence of that seizure. He did not bring the letters and notices connected with the matter because they were locked up in his shop. He did not know whether he was required to have a licence to handle these goods in Hongkong, neither did he know anything about the regulations here.

To Mr. Hastings—He always sent instructions to his agents in Hongkong as to where the goods were to be sent, at the same time that he sent the bills of lading.

Mr. E. A. Hewett said he was the Superintendent of the P. and O. Company in Hongkong. Cases bearing the marks produced arrived on the steamer *Devanha*, on or about the 7th inst, and he arranged with the Godown Company that the steamer should be discharged in the stream and not alongside the wharf, and that the Company would take the cargo in their own lighters to the godowns; a small portion was taken by P. and O. lighters, and one case was seized on his lighter, the other six cases being seized on the same day, when they were in the possession of the godown company on his behalf, as the company was responsible to him for those cases.

To Mr. Bailey.—The four cases referred to in the bill of lading produced also arrived on the same steamer, and the same instructions were given in regard to them as to the other seven cases.

To Mr. Deacon.—The cargo did not necessarily go through the hands of the Godown Company; the steamers often give delivery alongside into consignees' own lighters. The Godown Company held the goods free of storage charges for ten days, after which they charged consignees storage rent. In the event of the consignee not claiming the goods they might lie in the godown a year.

Evidence of a similar nature was given with regard to Messrs. McEwen, Frickel and Co.'s claim, and the case was further remanded.

SENSATIONAL OCCURRENCE IN VICTORIA GAOL.

ALLEGED MURDER OF A PRISONER.

In the afternoon of the 1st May it transpired that a prisoner in Victoria Gaol had that morning been murdered by a fellow prisoner. So far as can be ascertained, the two men, who were shoemakers, had had a difference of opinion over something, and, waiting his opportunity, the assailant suddenly attacked the other man as he sat in front of him in the shoemakers' shop, plunging a shoemaker's knife, a sharp bow-shaped instrument, twice into the neck of the unfortunate man. The victim was carried to the hospital, where he expired shortly afterwards.

An inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Li Shing, alleged to have been murdered in Victoria Gaol, was conducted by Mr. F. A. Hazelard yesterday afternoon at the Magistracy. The jury were Messrs. G. P. Curry, E. V. D. Parry, and W. C. Barrett.

E. J. Pierpont, chief warden in Victoria Gaol, said the body the jury had viewed was that of Li Shing, aged 37, a coolie, of Sun-woo-shung village, who was received into prison on 18th July, 1901, convicted of robbery, and sentenced to seven years' hard labour and twenty strokes with the birch. About 7.30 yesterday morning when he was visiting the West Yard gaol, he heard someone shout from the shoemakers' shop. He immediately ran there and saw prisoner 115 standing up with a shoemaker's knife in each hand. Warder Driscoll was standing over prisoner with his baton half raised. Witness told him to remain still and then, ringing the alarm bell went to the door of the shoemakers' shop and ordered all the prisoners to come out. This they did, falling in two deep outside. At that time the principal warden and other officers arrived on the scene. Then he noticed prisoner 19 (deceased) on the floor, and had him carried to the hospital. He ordered prisoner 115 to put down the knife, and after the order had been repeated several times prisoner did so. The name of prisoner 115 was Wong Tai. He was sentenced to eight years' hard labour for piracy. He noticed that the deceased had a wound on the right side of his neck and that he was covered in blood.

William Driscoll, a warden, said he was in charge of the shoemakers' party numbering 27 in Victoria Gaol. Yesterday morning at 6 a.m. he found everything quiet. There were 17 benches in the shop and deceased was sitting at No. 6. Wong Tai being at his rear. At 7.40 he saw Wong Tai, without the slightest provocation and without saying a word, pick up the shoemaker's knife, swing himself around the seat and stab the deceased, who ran towards witness and fell down. The warden then went to Wong Tai and told him to put down the knife. Instead of doing so he picked up another, holding one in each hand, and after a slight hesitation replaced the knives on the bench and walked towards his cell.

To Mr. Craig—Previous to the attack both men were engaged in making boots. Deceased did nothing to provoke Wong Tai, and witness could not ascribe anything for the attack. He believed that there was a slight jealousy between them because deceased was a better shoemaker than the other.

To His Worship—There were two blows delivered on the right side of the neck. Both Mr. Pierpont and he ordered Wong Tai at the same time to put down the knives.

To a juryman—He had heard some Chinese which induced him to think there was jealousy between the two.

Dr. William Moore, prison surgeon, said that in response to a telephone message yesterday morning about 7.30, saying that prisoner 19 had been stabbed and was already dead he went to the Gaol and saw the body of the deceased in the Hospital. His clothes were covered with blood. There were three cuts on the right side of the neck. Two of those wounds completely severed the internal jugular vein, and the carotid artery, and death, which must have ensued very rapidly, was caused by hemorrhage. The knife produced could have caused the wounds which he saw on deceased's neck.

The Jury found that deceased was killed by prisoner Wong Tai, and his Worship committed him for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

AN EXTRADITION DIFFICULTY.

Two Chinese named Li Mao-kat and Pong Ki-fong, were recently examined with reference to their extradition by the Chinese Government on charges of murder and robbery, but as the French authorities claimed that the offences were committed within their territory the men were released, only to be immediately re-arrested. The French authorities at Kwangtung-wan now demanded their extradition.

Inspector Hanson stated that he was unable to procure witnesses, as Colonel Yeung, of the Shamian Guards, had refused to allow them to give evidence for the French authorities. The Inspector was of opinion that the best way to get over the difficulties would be to call the witnesses and make a note to that effect on the depositions.

His Worship—That would do.

Colonel Yeung—I cannot call the witnesses.

Inspector Hanson—I have no power to call the witnesses, your Worship, as they belong to the Chinese Government. Col. Yeung is evidently afraid of the Viceroy.

His Worship—I don't know what the French Consul is going to do in this case. Is he going to produce further evidence?

Colonel Yeung explained that he had charge of the witnesses and answerable for them to the Viceroy of Canton. These witnesses had come to Hongkong to give evidence for the Chinese Government, and he was afraid he could not allow them to give evidence in this case without first consulting the Viceroy.

His Worship—Do you know if this village is under French jurisdiction?—Yes.

His Worship—It will only be a waste of time now. We don't want these men (prisoners). The sooner they are out of our hands the better. But it is not right that they should be kept in gaol. (To Col. Yeung)—How long do you expect to be away?—Forty-eight hours.

Inspector Hanson said he thought it was the intention of Col. Yeung to go to Canton tonight and he would probably take his witnesses too. On arrival at Canton he would possibly secure other witnesses—frame another charge, that of armed robbery in China—hasten back to Hongkong, and renew his application for the defendants, on a new charge, before the French Consul had time to act. Col. Yeung did not want to lose the prisoners, as he was in charge of the case for his Government. Inspector Hanson also remarked that it was reported the defendants had robbed both French and Chinese villages.

His Worship granted a remand until Monday next, by which time Col. Yeung is expected back from Canton.

It is explained that owing to an expression "alleged to have been heard from some member of the Russian Commission which has been negotiating with the Chinese Government concerning Manchuria, which was taken as a veiled threat of a hostile nature to the present peaceful relations between China and Russia", there was some alarm at the Peking Court, with the result that H. E. Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai was sent for by the Empress-Dowager to consult about matters. One of the points to be settled during the conference at Court will be the preparedness of the Imperial forces to make any stand against a foreign enemy.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE MEASURES.

ALLEGED UNFAIR TREATMENT.

Following is a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. G. A. Woodcock, the Secretary of the Sanitary Board:-

Hongkong, April 23rd, 1906.

Sir,—In reference to the procedure hitherto adopted by the Sanitary Board in carrying out the bye-laws for the prevention of infectious and contagious diseases, especially plague, it may be interesting for members to know that the many hardships and sufferings entailed thereby have so alarmed the Chinese that they continue to conceal their sick and abandon their dead against the practice and custom of their own country, in spite of efforts to render them every assistance they may be in want of.

The questions I asked at the last meeting relate to these hardships and sufferings. Before proceeding further I should like to offer a few observations on the replies there:-

Bylaw 4 does not in my opinion empower the Medical Officer of Health to compel the contacts of plague patients to wear the clothes provided by the Sanitary Board. It refers only to the removal of clothing, etc. I am inclined to think that the Board's officers have, even in this matter, carried the law too far in removing the clothing locked up in boxes not in use at the time, nor soiled by discharges from infected persons. If the contacts wish to wear clean suits of their own, pending the disinfection of the infected suits, why should the Sanitary Board object to their so doing, thus not only causing them trouble and misery but also subjecting them to indignity?

The reply to question 2 is rather evasive. If the contention is that, once clothing having been exposed and handled in a plague house, it is liable to infection, why should the cloths of the Board's officers and coolies who handled the infected clothing of the contacts and worked for hours in a plague house be not submitted to the same process of disinfection before they are allowed to go elsewhere? If the theory holds good these men having worked in a plague house are bound to carry, if not more, as much infection as the contacts themselves.

Reply 3 says that special precautions are taken by practitioners and officers of the Board to protect their clothing from defilement. I may say for certain that they do not immediately after attending a plague case take off their infected clothes and send them in a covered basket to the disinfection, and when they change their defiled clothing they do not wear special clothing supplied by the Sanitary Board, but their own. I should say the clothing of those living in the same house as a plague patient runs no more risk of infection than theirs.

Reply 4 bears out the fact that, in addition to their misfortune, the inmates of a plague house have during all these years been subjected to suffering from cold for want of sufficient clothing. Had it not been noticed and reported by influential witnesses the only complaint mentioned in the reply would not have reached the ears of the proper authorities. When the disinfection and destruction of their property were being carried on, no sympathy was being extended to the sufferers, except that they were prevented from going out of sight, while they themselves were too scared to do anything.

During the last three years, at the initiation of our late Governor, Sir Henry Blake, kaifong committees have been formed and every endeavour made to relieve the alarmed Chinese by showing them sympathy and going amongst the poor to explain to them the requirements of the law and how they should comply with them, and since last year the Hon. Registrar General and the Chinese members of the Sanitary Board, with the co-operative assistance of those interested in philanthropic work, have obtained the consent of the Government to embark in a scheme to raise funds annually amongst the Chinese merchants and householders to establish district hospitals, called the Tung Wa branch hospitals, under the charge of licentuates of the Hongkong Medical College and English-speaking clerks, in different parts of the city, with a view to inculcating the more ignorant and poorer Chinese with a better

knowledge of the Public Health and Building Ordinance, extending to them any help they may require and thereby suppressing the concealment of cases and the dumping of dead bodies. This work has now been carried on for more than a year at a cost of about \$15,000 per annum, but I regret having to say that, on account of the fear which has so deeply taken root in the Chinese mind through the stringency of the measures enforced during the last twelve years since plague made its first appearance, and owing to the difficulty in raising sufficient funds to extend their operations, the founders' efforts have not met with such appreciable success as desired.

The concealment of plague cases and the dumping of dead bodies have oftentimes engaged the attention of the Government and the Sanitary Board. At a previous discussion of these matters the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Clark) gave it as his opinion that the Chinese did it in order to save expense, while the members contended that it was not so, but due to the drastic measures enforced, the Chinese poor being always able to obtain both free medicine and free medical attendance from the Tung Wa Hospital, which also undertakes to bury at its own expense the dead of the poor.

The allegation of the Chinese members appears to have been now verified, as in addition to the district hospital offering free medicine, coffin, etc., Mr. Ho Kam-tong, as a test of the allegation, has widely advertised on his own account to give free coffins and pay the costs of burial for the poor, and yet in a very few cases has his generosity been availed of, and dumping, I understand, still continues.

Considering the existing circumstances, I venture to remark that short of modifications of the procedure so persistently followed from year to year, and so long as the terrible fear in consequence thereof is not abated, the evil will ever remain to be a difficult problem.

For the information of members, I may here enumerate a few of the details which have driven the Chinese to this extreme and of which I have had personal knowledge. It may be argued that recently a little leniency and consideration has been exercised in the carrying out of the bye-laws and some small concessions have been granted. But all these are as nothing in comparison with the disturbance to domestic peace, the destruction of property, the separation of mothers from children, wives from husbands and the numerous hardships the Chinese have to endure.

At ordinary times when a death occurs in a Chinese house, excepting those cases attended by qualified doctors, an inspector is sent to view the body before a burial certificate is issued. If in the opinion of the Inspector the body looks suspicious, it is taken away to the mortuary to be examined. This is one of the objectionable features of the procedure, which the Chinese regard as posthumous punishment.

During the plague season stricter vigilance is exercised. Where qualified medical assistance is not employed, against which the prejudice has not yet been entirely overcome, almost every dead body is carted away, and even in some cases the patient in a moribund state, not actually suffering from plague but with suspicious symptoms, is not allowed to die in peace in his own house. Under such circumstances hardship and suffering are unavoidably inflicted on the patient and his family, and fright and anxiety caused to his fellow-lodgers and neighbours. If on examination by the Government Bacteriologist a patient or corpse is found to be plague-stricken, a constable is detailed to mount guard at his house to prevent the removal of any article and the holding of communication with outside by the inmates until the cleansing gang under a coloured foreman and an inspector arrive a few hours thereafter or sometimes on the following day. Then the contacts are compelled to strip off their own clothes and put on those supplied by the Sanitary Board. Not only the clothes which the contacts are at the time wearing but also those locked up in boxes must be shuffled into large baskets and carried away for disinfection.

The scene created by the demolition of partitions and ceilings, coupled with the washing of furniture and bed-boards is anything but pleasant. To see the cleansing coolies—whom the people call "rat kings", because of their arrogant attitude—throwing the debris about and dashing in and out with what they have destroyed, while the people themselves in the convict-like garments provided by the Sanitary Board are watching on with sad faces, is very touching. Why some of those engaged in the work still have the heart to be rough and bullying I fail to understand.

The procedure is to prevent the spread of infection, but I should say it rather helps it to spread, inasmuch as it has struck awe into the hearts of the Chinese to such an extent as compelling them to devise means at great risk and against the practice of their own race to evade the law by concealing their sick and abandoning their dead.

As I have on various occasions pointed out, very few Chinese can afford to rent a whole house or even a whole floor. Usually two or more than three families, and in the case of single men, ten or fifteen, share a floor together. The occurrence of a plague case would, consequently, affect all alike. It is, I think, only human nature for the rest to do their utmost to avoid the miseries inevitably resulting from a voluntary report to the authorities.

It should be borne in mind that in almost every case the sick abandoned or the corpse dumped belongs to the labouring class. When one of this class contracts the disease, too poor to pay for his necessities and without friends sufficiently well off to look after him, his employers or fellow-lodgers, fully knowing what would ensue, naturally take steps to protect their own welfare and interest. Should he be a married man having a family with him, the other families living on the same floor will feel too much alarmed not to persuade, or that failing, to threaten, into doing anything save reporting his case, and should both attempts prove in vain, to desert the house, leaving his wife and children alone. If he cannot pull through, his own kith and kin in turn desert him.

At other times these people have better chances of getting their deal passed by the Sanitary officers and can without molestation apply to the Tung Wa Hospital for assistance or go out to beg for subscriptions to pay for the burial, but when plague is rampant, as that institution must report every suspicious case, they shun it too for fear of the detection of their address and hang on till the last moment, when they have no alternative but to commit the heinous offence. As regards the well-to-do, they secretly remove their sick out of the Colony before death takes place. I say secretly, because they have to undergo the same treatment and they equally want to avoid it.

In conclusion, I beg to suggest that a sub-committee consisting of the President, the Senior Chinese Member and another European unofficial member be appointed to thoroughly investigate—

(A) The methods hitherto adopted and the manner in which they have been carried out, and

(B) The causes of dumping, and consider what modifications are necessary to enlist the co-operation of the Chinese community and reduce the existing hardship to a minimum.

A little tact mingled with sympathy and consideration as shown them during the Third Street experiment, will, I am sure, induce the Chinese to come forward to give assistance. As the majority of the population of the Colony is Chinese, it is undesirable to make it their second nature, as it has apparently done, to continue the evil practice. Why should the Sanitary Board have recourse to drastic measures if its object can be equally successfully attained by milder means?

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LAU CHU-PAK

The Nanfangpao states that in consequence of reports current among the Chinese that Russia is preparing for war with China, Mr. Pokhiloff has informed the Waiwai that although the Manchurian negotiations may not be settled for some time, yet Russia will on no account make that a pretext to force a rupture with China.

COMPANIES.

THE SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., was held on April 26th. There were present—Messrs. E. Jenner Hogg (in the chair), A. McLeod, J. M. Young, C. W. Wrightson, and Sir Charles Dudgeon (directors), Mrs. Snethlage, Messrs. Chollet, A. P. Wood, T. Weir Beattie, J. N. Jameson, E. D. Sanders, C. D. Kerr, L. J. Cubitt, J. Valentine, H. A. J. Macray, A. Dallas, J. H. Teesdale (legal adviser), and P. Peebles (general manager), representing 2,429 shares.

The Chairman said:—With reference to the first resolution which has been laid down there is a slight amendment of section "e" which I propose to make so as to make the resolution more complete. It is to put in after "any shares not then accepted and paid for", the words "as aforesaid" in the first part of section "e." At our annual meeting in February last I referred to the developments that the Board had been carrying out during the past year. These developments had, as you are aware, already required money in excess of the company's funds, as shown by the overdraft with the bank of nearly Tls. 280,000. Further sums will be needed to complete the projects already initiated and further to provide for the expansion which is clearly before us. We shall find ample employment for the money we propose to raise, and therefore we do not hesitate to come to you for the necessary power.

Our share capital now stands at Tls. 2,600,000—being 52,000 shares of Tls. 50 each—in addition to Tls. 2,060,000 in debentures, and our reserve funds; and as I have said our overdraft at the end of last year was some Tls. 280,000. To cover this and to meet our present and prospective requirements, and to place the company in a position to take advantage of opportunities as they occur, your directors have decided to recommend to you the raising of additional capital, and they consider that it is in the best interests of the company to raise it by issuing shares at a premium of Tls. 25 per share. This will give in respect of dividend-earning capital the sum of Tls. 1,300,000 and will produce premium to go to Reserve the sum of Tls. 65,000, a total together of Tls. 1,950,0. It is proposed to offer the new issue to shareholders on the register on the 10th of May, 1906, in the proportion of one new share to every two existing shares held by them, notice of such offer to be issued not later than the 31st of May next. Deeming it advisable to give as long a notice as possible to shareholders, many of whom are at a distance, and as we can arrange our finances accordingly, we propose to call up the new capital in two installments—the first on the 1st of October, 1906; the next and final one on the 1st of April, 1907, in the following manner:—

1.—On the 1st of October Tls. 4, of which Tls. 25 will be half the face value of the shares, and Tls. 15 as part of the premium.
2.—On the 1st of April, 1907, Tls. 35, of which Tls. 25 will be the balance of the face value of the shares, and Tls. 10 the balance of the premium.

The proposition will then work out for shareholders; dividend on the new shares to rank on the first Tls. 25 from the 1st of October, 1906, and on the second Tls. 25 from the 1st April, 1907, and in the event of any bonus it will be paid in proportion to the new capital paid up on the 1st of October, 1906, and on the 1st of April, 1907, respectively. Interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum will be charged on any calls due on 1st October, 1906, but not paid between that date and up to the 31st of October, on which latter date shares not then accepted and the calls paid will be deemed to be declined and can be disposed of by the directors. So also with the calls due on the 1st of April, 1907, which will be similarly treated, and considered declined if not accepted and the calls paid on or before the 30th of April, 1907. As it is known to be convenient to some shareholders to pay for their shares in advance of the dates that it is proposed, as above, to fix for payment, the Board will accommodate any shareholders who may desire to make such payment—issuing receipts bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, to be exchanged for scrip on the date of issue of the

shares. I would point out that no fractional shares will be issued and fractions will bear no dividend. It is, therefore, desirable that shareholders should use every effort to make their holdings even numbers so as to obtain their allotments in the proportion of one new to two old shares. Any odd shares left over eventually (and it is to be hoped that there will be scarcely any) will be realisable by the Board—and any surplus realised over and above the Tls. 75 called (and interest) will be payable to shareholders entitled to it. I have endeavoured to explain the working of this matter as clearly as I can. The details of the proposal are fully contained in the resolution which has been published and which I now beg to propose. The resolution contains the alteration I have mentioned and I will not read it to you now because in putting it from the chair I should have to do so. Before I submit the resolution anyone wishing to make any remarks may do so and I should be glad to hear them and reply.

There being no questions the Chairman proposed:—

Resolution 1.—(a). That under the powers conferred by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the capital of the company be increased by the issue of 26,000 new shares of fifty taels each, paid up in full, in addition to the 52,000 like shares already existing.

(b). Such new shares shall in proportion to the amount then paid up thereon, rank for dividend as and from the first day of Oct., 1906.

(c). Such new shares shall be offered to the shareholders on the register on the 10th day of May, 1906, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine in the proportion of one new share for every two existing shares held by them, and such offer shall be made by notice to be issued not later than the 31st day of May, 1906, specifying the number of the new shares to which the shareholder is entitled and the rate of issue of such shares and stating that such offer will be deemed to be declined unless an acceptance of such offer in writing is delivered to the agents of the company, or to the company's bankers, the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation at Shanghai on or before the last day of October, 1906, together with such sum per share for each new share so accepted as the Board shall determine.

(d). Upon acceptance and payment within the time mentioned the shares so accepted and paid for shall be allotted accordingly.

(e). After the 31st day of October, 1906, any shares not then accepted (and paid for as aforesaid), shall be disposed of by the directors, either to shareholders or to others as they may deem advisable, at the best price obtainable therefor, not less than the nominal value thereof, and any premium obtained thereon shall be dealt with by the Board in their discretion.

Sir Charles Dudgeon seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem con.*

The Chairman—The only resolution of which notice has been given will do away with the difficulty which we frequently have in getting a quorum. I beg to propose:

Resolution 2.—That the Articles of Association of the company be altered in manner following:—In Article 70 the word "ten" shall be substituted for the word "fifteen."

Mr. Young seconded and the resolution was carried.

The Chairman—Ladies and Gentlemen.—That is all the business of the meeting and notices of the confirmatory meeting will be given in due course.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the Board of Directors to the seventeenth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's offices, St. George's Building, at noon on Saturday, 12th May, reads:—

Gentlemen.—Your directors have the pleasure to submit the accompanying statement of the Company's Accounts for the period of ten months ending 28th February, 1906.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$103,244.69; after deducting directors' fees (\$3,540) there remains the sum of \$100,744.69 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—

To pay a Dividend for the ten months at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum:	\$ c.
Say, \$1.00 per share on 30,000 original fully paid shares	30,000.00
Say, 65 cents per share on 29,692 new issue shares on which the final call has been paid	19,299.80
Say, 50 cents per share on 308 part paid shares	154.00
	\$49,453.80
To write off plant account for depreciation	42,392.48
To write off property account for depreciation	6,329.97
To carry forward to next account	2,468.44
	\$100,744.69

The Manager reports that the number of Lamps, Fans and Motors connected to the Company's Supply Services on the 1st April was equivalent to upwards of 39,500 Lamps of 8 candle power. 85 Arc Lamps are maintained by the Company and 20 Electric Lifts are being operated by the Power service. The new Chimney was completed and brought into service at the beginning of September, whilst a shed has been constructed at the Works to provide further accommodation for storage of material. The work of laying Underground Feeder and Distribution Cables from the Company's Station throughout the centre of the City was commenced in October last. At the present date the main cables have all been laid and it is expected that the new distribution system will be brought into use in about two months' time, when the various service cables, which are now being laid, have been connected up.

Directors.—In accordance with the Articles of Association, Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, Kt, and Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. C. W. May and W. Hutton Potts (the latter in place of Hon. Mr. G. Stewart, who is absent from the Colony). These gentlemen offer themselves for re-election.

A. G. WOOD.
Chairman.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

To February 28th, 1906.

LIABILITIES

	\$ c.
Capital:	
50,000 shares each \$10 paid up 600,000.00	
Less call unpaid on 3,18 shares at \$5.00	1,510.00
	398,480.00
Sundry creditors	4,200.00
Dividends unclaimed	4,033.98
Suspense account	1,757.29
Balance of profit and loss account	103,244.69
	\$712,295.06

	\$ c.
Plant, cost of, as per last account	377,049.76
Less amount provided for depreciation	6,048.76
	315,000.00
Cost of plant, since added	77,392.48
	392,392.48

	\$ c.
Property, cost of land and buildings as per last account	832,434.97
Cost of buildings since added	8,343.00
	91,329.97
Installation material, stock of	71,391.72
Stores and coal, stock of	15,818.61
Tools, &c., stock of	1,012.21
Furniture, cost of, as per last account	8774.76
Cost of furniture since added	75.00
	849.76

	\$ c.
Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies	1,200.00
Sundry debtors	8,68.81
Cash with agents	16,970.08
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	4,964.30
	\$712,295.94

WORKING ACCOUNT

	Dr.	\$ c.
To agency and office expenses	5,000.00	
To rent and taxes	2,923.63	
To insurance	2,174.50	
To interest	1,643.79	
To auditors' fees	200.00	
To bad debts	741.97	
To amount carried to profit and loss account	101,933.37	
		\$113,827.46

THE HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS AND

[May 5 1906.]

Cr.	c.
By net profit on working	113,906.71
By scrip and transfer fees	20.75
	<u>\$113,927.46</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$ c.
To amount available for appropriation	103,244.69
	<u>\$103,244.69</u>

Cr.	\$ c.
By amount of undivided profit, as per last account	2,151.12
By balance of working account brought down	101,093.57
	<u>\$103,244.69</u>

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The report of the general managers for the year ending 31st December, 1905, for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first annual ordinary general meeting of the company since its registration to be held at the offices of the company in Alexandra Buildings on Saturday, 12th May:

Gentlemen.—We beg to lay before you a statement of the company's business, with a balance sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1905.

The net profits of the company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including the salary of the general managers, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounts to \$125,408.59

To which has to be added the balance brought forward from the previous year 6,096.78

\$131,505.37

From this there has to be deducted:

General managers' commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits for the year as per article 80 of the Company's Articles of Association ... \$6,270.43

Remuneration of the Consulting Committee as per article 92 ... 2,500.00

8,770.43

Leaving available for appropriation ... \$122,734.94

We paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in November last absorbing ... \$45,000.00

We now propose to pay a further dividend of 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year) which will absorb ... 45,000.00

To write off furniture, fittings, of utensils of trade, aerated water plant, machinery, and building improvements ... 25,000.00

To carry forward to 1906 account ... 7,734.94

\$122,734.94

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.
The existing Consulting Committee consists of Hon. Sir. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, and Messrs. H. P. White and J. Scott-Harston. The appointment of Mr. J. Scott-Harston requires your confirmation.

AUDITORS.
The Company's accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. Francis Maitland and Mr. W. Hytton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1905.

Dr. LIABILITIES.
Capital account ... \$900,000.00
Permanent reserve fund ... 300,000.00

Reserve fund to meet contingencies or for the equalization of dividends ...	25,000.00
	<u>\$1,225,000.00</u>

Local and general liabilities in the East and in America ...	\$139,682.13
Local and general liabilities in London	55,286.72

194,968.85

Mortgage on section E of Inland lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon ...	\$ 48,000.00
Mortgage on Marine lot No. 2 C and the buildings thereon ...	125,000.00

Mortgage on remaining portion of Kowloon Inland lot No. 550 and the buildings thereon ...	25,000.00
Advance against San Jacinto property Manila ...	18,697.58

216,697.58

Bills payable, Hongkong and Manila ...	130,900.78
Unclaimed dividends ...	10,151.85
Security Deposits from Staff ...	15,650.00

Profit and loss—Forward from 1904 ...	\$ 6,096.78
Net balance 1905 ...	125,408.59
	<u>\$131,505.37</u>

Less interim dividend of 50 cents per share paid in November, 1905 ...	\$45,000.00
Less amount unclaimed at December, 1905 ...	6,129.00

38,871.00

	92,634.87
	<u>\$1,886,003.43</u>

ASSETS.

Total Stocks in Trade ...	\$1,044,963.49
---------------------------	----------------

Building improvements, Furniture, Fittings and Trade Utensils, at Hongkong, Manila, Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Soanghai, Hankow, Tientsin and Native Branches ...	\$117,948.88
Aerated Water and other Machinery and Plant at Hongkong, Manila, Canton, Amoy, Shanghaï and Hankow ...	121,627.27
	<u>8,059.75</u>

Steamer Launch "Tai Yeu Fong" and Steam Lighter "Watson" ...	\$247,635.90
Good Debts due from Customers ...	241,645.29
Sundry Debtors ...	22,221.03

Cash in hand ...	21,075.38
Cash at Bank ...	11,324.04

32,399.42

Fire Insurance, Premia unexpired Investments in Public Companies: North China Insurance Co., Ltd. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	9,769.84
	<u>1,20.00</u>

Section E of Inland Lot No. 19 and the Buildings thereon ...	60,000.00
Marine Lot No. 2 C and the Buildings thereon ...	173,917.82

Remaining Portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 550 and the Buildings thereon ...	27,500.00
San Jacinto, Land and Buildings, Manila ...	24,751.64

286,169.46

	\$1,886,003.43
To Balance ...	<u>... \$131,505.37</u>

	\$131,505.37
	<u>\$131,505.37</u>

CONTRA.	\$ 6,096.78
By Balance forward from 1904 ...	\$ 6,096.78
" Net Profits in Hongkong, China and Manila for 1905 ...	125,408.59

\$131,505.37

CHINA ASSOCIATION.

MR. GUNDREY REPROVES SHANGHAI.

the way they deserved coming from such an important emporium as Shanghai. The representations of Shanghai would always be received and acted upon with a due regard to their weight. He trusted that after this expression of regret the parent Association and the Shanghai Branch would work harmoniously together for their mutual advantage and would do mutually what was possible for the best interests of commerce and the extension of their intercourse with China. He asked them to devote themselves to the promotion of these objects quietly and deliberately, putting their views so before the Government, which would listen to them the more carefully if prudently and cautiously expressed than if violently and somewhat insistently forced upon them (hear, hear, and applause).

The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Sir Alfred Dent, and unanimously agreed to.

Proceeding to the election of office-bearers and committee, the Chairman expressed the pleasure of the members that Mr. Gundry had consented to take office again as President. For his own part, having been the Chairman of Committee for so many years and intimated his desire from time to time to retire, he felt that the time had now come when it was incumbent for him to do so.

The other office-bearers were elected as follows:—Chairman of Committee, Mr. J. H. Scott; Vice-Chairman, Sir Alfred Dent; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Welch.

The following were elected members of committee:—Sir T. Sutherland, G.C.M.G.; Sir E. A. Sassoon, Bart., M.P.; Sir Cecil C. Smith, G.C.M.G.; Sir Ewen Cameron, K.C.M.G.; Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G.; Sir Thos. Hanbury, K.C.V.O.; Sir Walter C. Hillier, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir Thos. Jackson, Bart.; Messrs. Byron Brean, C.M.G.; A. R. Burkhill, F. Cornes, Herbert Dent, G. B. Dodwell, R. M. Gray, R. S. Gundry, C.B., Wm. Harwood, R. H. Hill, G. Jamieson, C.M.G., H. H. Joseph, W. Keswick, M.P., D. C. Rutherford, J. H. Scott, H. D. Stewart, W. M. Strachan, W. C. Ward, J. Welch, T. H. Whitehead, R. C. Wilcox, W. S. Young and A. Zimmern.

Sir Thomas Jackson moved that Rule VII. be amended to read to the effect that the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Hon. Secretary shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meetings; provided always that in no case shall the President, Chairman or Vice-Chairman hold office for more than three years consecutively.

Mr. Gundry seconded, and the alteration was agreed to unanimously.

Sir Thomas Jackson moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Keswick for his services as Chairman of Committee for so many years.

Mr. Gundry, in support of this proposal, said he hoped this would be agreed to with more heartiness than a mere formality. He had worked along with Mr. Keswick for upwards of sixteen years, and no one was better able than himself to speak of the attention and interest Mr. Keswick had taken in the Association during that long time. He could speak most cordially of Mr. Keswick's whole-hearted efforts in the interests of the Association. He took the opportunity of thanking the members for re-electing him as their President, and said there was one matter he wished to refer to before they went away. He quite agreed with what the Chairman had told them about the unfortunate difference with the Shanghai Branch and the futility of continuing the discussion. But he would like to quote one passage in the report of the proceedings at Shanghai: The Chairman of that meeting (Mr. R. W. Little) has said, "Our trunk—London—from which we are sprung, remarked the other day, or rather recently, on the principle that lunatics themselves think all other people are lunatics and they are wise, that we are a moribund institution, which we are not, and if we were it would be due to the dissatisfaction at the way in which recently the London office has been conducted". It might be imagined by anyone reading that report that it was London that had said that the Shanghai Branch was moribund, whereas it was exactly the reverse. The word moribund was quoted from Mr. Bland's speeches and they applied it themselves to their own state in Shanghai, and so, if there

were any lunatics about, it must be in Shanghai (laughter).

Mr. Keswick—I thank you and Mr. Gundry for this vote of thanks. I appreciate it very much. You may be sure that as long as I have strength and energy to devote to work I shall do what I can for the Association (applause).

The Chairman then reminded the members of the presence in London of the Special Mission from China, and said it was the intention of the Association to entertain the Chinese Commissioners at dinner, details of which would be circulated in due course.

CHINESE CUSTOMS REPORT.

INTERESTING NOTES ON SILVER.

We have received from the Imperial Maritime Customs of China, Department of Statistics, the report on the foreign trade of China which is now annually and eagerly expected from the pen of Mr. H. B. Morse, the Statistical Secretary. The current report is part I. for 1905. To begin with, we give only some extracts from his very interesting remarks on currency, trade, and other circumstances as affecting silver and exchange. He says:—

In my report for 1904 I referred to the great excess in the value of imports over exports; and taking the figures for 1903, when the value of foreign merchandise imported exceeded that of Chinese produce exported by 31 per cent., I was able to show that the sum of China's liabilities on the year's working, including payments for imports, loans and indemnities, and all other charges, was fully covered by the assets available in the same period, made up of the visible asset of produce exported and other invisible assets for which an estimate was given. In 1904 the excess of imports had increased to 43 per cent., and in the trade of 1905 imports (Hk. Tls. 447,100,791) exceeded exports (Hk. Tls. 277,888,197) by 97 per cent. Other things being normal, the natural result of increased imports and/or decreased exports would be to knock exchange in the head, importers competing for bills to cover their indents, while exporters' bills would not suffice to supply the demand; exchange has, however, been, on the average, 5 per cent. higher (3s. 0*1* 10d. against 2s. 10*4* 10d.) in 1905 than in 1904, with even a marked rise toward the end of the year and a tendency to maintain the rise. This is a result which would naturally follow from diminished imports or increased exports, instead of the actual conditions of the year, and the advantage has been to importers, notwithstanding the increased supply of imports. To put it in terms of silver, importers would for Tls. 10,000 have obtained in 1905 bills for £1,500, while in 1904 the outturn would have been only £1,425, with which to pay their invoices; and exporters selling bills for £1,000 would in 1905 obtain Tls. 6,666, and in 1904 Tls. 7,00, with which to buy produce. The exporter was on better terms in 1904 and the importer in 1905.

Exchange can therefore not have been mainly affected by the trade conditions in China, though it is to be noted that the rate for bill, as shown by the accompanying diagram, has not always risen as high as the rate for silver, the exchange rate being in the last three months of the year a full penny, and sometimes nearly 2d., below the parity of exchange based on the price of bar silver; in other words, the importer buying bills has lost from 3 to 5 per cent. of the amount realisable if he could take the silver obtained for his goods and transport it, without cost, risk, or loss of time, to the place where he has to turn it into gold.

Of external causes of the rise in the value of silver, two may be mentioned. The world's output of gold is increasing: in the 40 years 1851-90 the annual average output available for coinage and the arts was under £25,000,000, while in 1905 the mines of the Transvaal alone reported an output of £10,892,074, marking a probable world's total for the year of over £70,000,000; the result of this increase would be to lower the exchange value of gold and, with no diminution in the demand for silver, to appreciate relatively the value of silver. The demand for the white metal has at the same

time increased; the mints of India have been buying, it having been decided to establish a new reserve of uncoined bullion to the amount of 30,00,000 rupees, in addition to the coin reserve; and the requirements for the new coinage (the peso) of the Philippines have called for some silver supplies; and it is stated that Japan and Russia, together, have bought some 50 million ounces for transmission to the seat of war. Concurrently, the Mexican mint has taken advantage of high exchange prices to dispose of the larger portion of its surplus stock of Mexican dollars.

Coming to the extreme East, we find one cause tending to keep up the rate of exchange and thereby to enhance the value of silver—the needs of the belligerents in Manchuria. Funds for use in the North have been provided by both the combatant powers in two ways: by drafts on Shanghai (and secondarily on Tientsin) and by the use of Russian rouble notes and Japanese war notes for silver dollars. The drafts coming in have covered merchandise indirectly; they have provided at Shanghai a credit fund on the drawing country, which has served to provide drafts for remitting the proceeds of China's imports, and to that extent has reduced the quantity of importers' bills, which must be covered by exporters' bills and while the draft had the immediate effect of draining the market of silver, it was for use within the national and commercial limits of China, and the silver has streamed or will stream back to the money market, as soon as it has served its purpose and as the ways are opened. The rouble notes have operated in the same way as drafts, being discounted on the spot, collected by financial agents, and returned promptly to Russia, mainly through Shanghai, but after the spring of 1905 through Harbin as well; they have thus served to swell the credit fund available for providing importers' bills, and have so far lessened the demand for exporters' bills—they have enabled China to substitute Manchurian labour for Kiangsu silk as an export to meet the demands of her annual liabilities. Japanese war notes, being for silver dollars, could not be used in the same way to press an immediate demand on the issuing nation; of them, it is roughly estimated that 75 million dollars were issued, of which about a sixth were redeemed on the spot, and a sixth were returned to Japan and there voluntarily redeemed at the rate of 0.90 yen for the dollar, leaving about 50 million dollars still in circulation in Manchuria. To the extent of the 10 million yen redeemed in Japan, these notes added to the banks' credit fund, while the 12 million dollars redeemed locally added so much to the cash reserve of China, imported through channels not contributing to the statistics of the treasure table. The amount of all these additions to the financial resources of the Empire cannot be exactly assessed. Accepting the estimate given above, we may take the entire amount of Japanese war notes, 75 million dollars, since they constitute an actual liability of the Japanese government and must be maintained in circulation without undue depreciation; the Russian expenditure provided in the same way cannot be put at a smaller amount; and I am inclined to put the funds provided by bank drafts at fully 50 million and probably 75 million dollars. This gives a possible total of 225 million dollars, or Hk. Tls. 150,000,000 provided by the belligerent Powers to cover invisible exports purveyed for their use; for it must be remembered that supplies provided from the area of military operations or its vicinity are an export of the country on which that area depends. Supplies procured from the country, such as the provisions to feed the armies, the slothing to cover them, the transport to move them, the labour to house or shelter them or to supplement their own work, are all exports of material or labour, are all assets of the producing country, and must all be paid for, one way or another, either in money or in an increased difficulty in getting further supplies; and both belligerents, while undoubtedly causing much suffering, seem to have paid their way.

Coming now to the actual balance of trade (or balance of indebtedness, as it has been better termed), we have the following statement on the basis of the trade of 1905:—

LIABILITIES. Hk. Tls.
Value of merchandise imported in 1905 ... 447,100,791

Net import of treasure into commercial area (see page xv.) ...	14,810,102
Loans and indemnities	42,000,000
Invisible liabilities, es- timate of 1903 ...	32,070,000
	535,980,893
ASSETS.	
Value of merchandise exported in 1905 ...	227,888,197
Invisible assets, es- timate of 1903 (less expenditure on Man- churian railways and garrison of Port Arthur) ...	149,40,000
Difference to be accounted for Hk. Tls... ...	377,288,197
	158,692,696

This unprovided balance, Hk. Tls. 158,692,696, may be considered a possible estimate of what may be called "war remittances" which have during the year been covered by merchandise imported, subject, however, to some deduction for the balance of trans-frontier trade outwards over that inwards (see page vii.), not included in this estimate.

As some uncertainty is still found to exist in the Chinese mind as to the actual disposition of the silver which has to be paid by the government of China to procure gold for its foreign loans and its indemnities to foreign Powers, I think it well to go more fully into the subject. The amount so payable is about £6,250,000 a year; at the average exchange of 19² this was equivalent to Hk. Tls. 48,000,00¹, and at the exchange of 1905 to Hk. Tls. 42,000,00⁰.

The money required is first in the pockets of the people in copper cash: with this they buy goods, both foreign and native, from the retail dealers, who must then convert this copper into silver to pay for their purchases from the wholesale merchants. These last must pay on their goods, silver for Customs duties, copper for general and salt Likin, and silver or copper for other taxes, and in this way the necessary funds come into the official treasuries; but what is received at the treasuries in copper must be converted into silver.

Remittances are made, usually by draft, from all the collecting treasuries to Shanghai, the principal commercial centre of China, where the money has to be paid to the banks by the Shanghai Taotai, who acts as financial agent for the Chinese government. On the due date the Taotai sends to the foreign banks cheques for the amount in silver which is due to each. This finishes the part to be performed by the Chinese government. The rest is to be done by bankers and merchants, and is in two parts: (1) changing the silver paid by cheque in Shanghai for bills of gold exchange required to pay the loans and indemnities; (2) finding the silver required by the Chinese banks to pay the cheques sent by the Taotai to the foreign banks, and getting that silver back into circulation through all the provinces of China. For the silver transactions the cheques which the foreign banks have received from the Shanghai Taotai are presented to the native banks, and silver would be demanded if the foreign banks had a deficiency of silver and required to replenish their stock; but in general the Chinese practice is followed, and accounts are finally settled only at the end of the Chinese year. On presentation of the cheque the deposit to credit of the Taotai is transferred to the credit of the foreign bank, and becomes a debt due by the native bank to the foreign bank. For this debt interest has to be paid, and the amount of interest will depend on the proportion between all debts due to all banks and the actual silver available in the market and at the disposal of the debtor banks, and on the time still to run to settling day. This is the interest which the native banks must pay to the foreign banks. Now the native banks, if they must pay 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. for money which they owe, must receive 7 per cent. or 12 to 15 per cent. for the money which is due to them: without profit they must shut their doors. They are always lending to Chinese merchants, both in Shanghai, to which place the Taotai's remittances have come, and inland, whence the treasuries' remittances were sent: and with this money the merchants buy Chinese and foreign produce.

Considering first the Chinese produce, merchants expect to make a profit on what they have bought, and to compel them to sell otherwise than in the ordinary course of trade one of two things must happen: either the fluctuations in exchange referred to above will bring an increase in the silver value of their goods which will induce them to sell by increasing the profit; or an increase in the interest demanded by the banks will increase the cost of holding the goods, so that they will then be forced to sell with a small profit, or even with no profit at all. The merchants in the interior, having bought goods with the silver which they have borrowed from the native banks, will either themselves bring the goods to Shanghai or another large Treaty port, or will sell to another merchant who brings them to the Treaty port. After arrival at the port they hold the goods to make a profit. If exchange alters in such a way that the foreign merchant can offer a large price, as shown before, then the owner will sell his goods because of the profit which he will make. If the money market is tight and the foreign banks must charge a high rate of interest, and must therefore demand a high rate of interest, the native banks, if they are unable to pay off the debt, must then pay a higher interest, and must therefore demand a higher interest from the native merchants, until first one, then another, then more are forced to sell because they cannot obtain renewal of the loans or cannot pay the higher rate of interest. When they have sold, either to obtain the profit or because they are forced they obtain payment either by order on native banks or more probably by cheque on the foreign banks. Meantime the foreign merchants who bought these goods have been selling foreign goods, with the proceeds from which they create a credit at the foreign banks, and against this credit they draw their cheques. The cheques thus received by the sellers of native goods are then paid to the native banks to repay the loans, and are used by the native banks to reduce their indebtedness to the foreign banks. When the supply of native goods sold for export to foreign countries is sufficient, the entire indebtedness of the native banks to the foreign banks can be paid off in this way; but as this is not now the case, silver must be obtained from elsewhere to close accounts at the end of the year.

While native goods for export have thus contributed their share to steady the money market, foreign goods have been bought by native merchants at Shanghai and elsewhere to be transported inland and sold. The native merchant has borrowed from the native banks the money with which to pay the foreign importer, and when these foreign goods are sold the money received for them is paid to the native banks' branches or agents in the interior. In the cases of foreign goods also, a rise in the rate of interest forces the holder to sell, in order that he may repay his loan; and a rise in exchange leads him to sell, either because he can replace the goods more cheaply or because he is competing with others who bought their stocks more cheaply at the high exchange. If at Shanghai the foreign banks owed money to the native banks, or if there were abundance of silver in both foreign and native banks, the rate of exchange would be such that the silver would remain inland and the proceeds would be remitted to Shanghai by draft; but if the Shanghai native banks are short of money then the expense of remitting hard silver must be incurred, and the silver will be sent to Shanghai to enable the native banks to liquidate their debt to the foreign banks; and in this way the banking transactions of the year are closed. From Chungking, to cite one example, it is reported that, during the latter half of the year, merchants were quite unable to obtain drafts to pay for their goods imported, and were driven to incur the risk and expenses of shipping bullion down river through the rapids, and that this imposed a serious restriction on trade.

At the close of the year, then, the whole of the payments due for loans and indemnities have been paid to the foreign banks in the course of ordinary banking business, and the payment for loans and indemnities are in no way distinguished from payments for goods, whether foreign goods imported or native goods exported. If the quantity of native goods exported is reduced—as, for example, by a

failure of the silk crop, or a smaller export of tea or other goods—then the silver required to be sent to the interior is less and the bills offered for sale against exports are less, and the foreign banks have no means of using the silver in their vaults and must export as much silver as they cannot use, except under conditions such as prevailed during the past year, when so much of importers' bills was covered by credits based on war remittances. If, on the other hand, there are native goods for export in large quantities, then the foreign banks will lend their silver to native banks, to be lent to native merchants to take to the interior to buy native produce, or will buy bills from foreign merchants who have to pay for native produce brought down from the interior.

The periodic payment of loans and indemnities has the effect of making the foreign banks perpetual creditors receiving silver from the native banks, but it does not have the direct effect of causing a flow of silver out of the country. The movement of silver is affected by the movement of goods: when exports of goods are abundant silver will remain in the country, and when they diminish in quantity or in value silver will flow out. In other words, the debts of a country are paid in goods, and silver is used only when goods are not exported in sufficient quantities. An increase in exports makes the rates of exchange favourable to the exporting country, and also increases the supply of silver, so that the money market is easy. The conclusion, therefore, is that every effort must be made to encourage the export trade, since only in that way can the solvency of the country be maintained.

HOME AND CHINA AFFAIRS.

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT)

March 30th.

PRAISE FOR HONGKONG.

Contrary to expectation, the annual meeting of the China Association passed off without undue emphasis being laid upon the difference of opinion that had arisen between the Shanghai Branch and the parent Association over the question of policy. Mr. William Keswick, M.P., who was presiding for the last time under his term of office as Chairman of the Committee, made a nice little speech, which was marked by a praiseworthy and diplomatic reference to "the little misunderstanding" with Shanghai. By taking this wise course, he obviated the necessity of further reference, and completely shut the mouths of any sympathisers with the Shanghai attitude; and everybody was prepared to go away and do as he had suggested by laying aside all soreness and working amicably for the general good. It was a pity, therefore, that Mr. Gundry, the re-elected President, could not leave well alone. Instead of that, he very unnecessarily harked back to a remark by Mr. R. W. Little at one of the Shanghai meetings. It was quite uncalled for, and I feel sure that if he had thought of the effect his parting shot may have in Shanghai he would have refrained from opening up the old sore. It is to be hoped Shanghai will not retaliate. If Mr. Gundry seemed to show more heat than was called for, no one else gave the matter serious thought, and the remark was allowed to pass with a quiet laugh. The meeting was well attended, and one may hope that this is a sign that there is to be an infusion of fresh vigour into this representative institution during the current year. It is highly satisfactory to see from the report of the Association that the Hongkong Branch is by no means "moribund". Its business like action over the Canton-Kowloon Railway, and the threatened new port at Whampoa, reflects the greatest credit on the local Chairman, the Hon Secretary and the Committee, and we at this end feel that so long as this spirit of watchfulness is shown there is no fear of British interests being overlooked or neglected—in Hongkong. There is not only scope but need for such an Association, and the wonder is that there are not more branches in a few of the more important ports. As the Chairman at Tuesday's meeting said, China is on the eve of enormous changes, and it is difficult to foresee the outcome of the present impetus towards reform. China will need all the guidance she can get, and

it may not be improbable that the China Association and its branches may play an important part in political pilotage. At any rate, the members resident in China can all be look-out men, and it will greatly depend on their seeing aright what action shall be taken by the Association's management in London, and maybe through them by the British Government. Both Shanghai and Hongkong have opportunities of being useful during the next year or two, and they may be trusted not to allow those opportunities to pass because of any fancied slothfulness in London. If they will "play the game", there are members in London who will see that their activity is not frustrated by want of zeal here.

THE NEW SHIPPING BILL.

It is to be regretted that the present Government has decided not to take any action in the meantime to codify the Merchant Shipping Acts. The time is ripe for this reform. But it is satisfactory that the Government has decided to place on the Statute Book a measure that will, we all hope, add to the safety and comfort of the British sailor, while at the same time affording the ship-owner some measure of protection from the unfair competition of the foreigner. Mr. Lloyd-George, as President of the Board of Trade, has introduced a Bill which should have some effect on the shipping trade at Hongkong, in common with other parts of the Empire, and doubtless it is already receiving the consideration of the local Chamber of Commerce. The new measure aims at the prevention of overloading in foreign vessels trading with British ports. It does seem anomalous that an old British ship sold to a foreigner after being condemned, perhaps, as unseaworthy, should be allowed to enter our ports without any load-line and compete with our own craft tied down by all sorts of Board of Trade regulations. After a certain date, to be fixed by the House of Commons, every vessel coming to our ports must not only be seaworthy but must have the same disc as on our ships and carry the same life-saving apparatus. They will also be subject to the same cabin passenger regulations. In order to meet the argument that British sailors will not become sailors because the food on our ships is either bad or badly cooked, the Government propose that every ship shall carry a certificated cook, and in other ways the lot of the sailor-man is to be safeguarded or ameliorated. There is, unfortunately, a tendency among the Labour members to cavil at the employment of Lascars whom they would class as foreigners and bring under the new restrictions proposed with reference to foreign seamen on British ships; but it is satisfactory to note that Mr. Lloyd-George speaking for the Government, did not miss the opportunity of impressing upon the House the fact that the Lascars are our fellow-subjects, and that having taken away their occupation by the introduction of steamers in the coastwise trade of India we have an obligation to provide a livelihood for them. The Labour members preach the doctrine of the "solidarity" of the labouring classes throughout the world, and the Socialist members are growing more insistent that the time is coming when mankind shall surely be brothers. It is therefore somewhat inconsistent to say that only white men are to be considered. Is it too much to hope that the growth of socialistic ideas may even yet reconcile the British electorate to the presence of Chinamen on the Rand?

NEW PACIFIC LINER.

The arrival of the s.s. *Monteagle*, which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have detached from their Atlantic fleet and transferred to the Trans-Pacific route, marks a performance which no other company has been able to rival, inasmuch as passengers can now for the first time travel round the world on one company's service. Two Montreal gentlemen have almost completed this journey. They left their Canadian home in one of the C.P.R. steamers for Liverpool and afterwards set out from the port on the Mersey for the East on the *Monteagle*, leaving her at Hongkong and continuing the journey on another of the Company's steamers to Yokohama and Vancouver, and will finally entrain from there to their homes. Of course other people have travelled round the world on one ticket, but this is the

first occasion on which the entire journey has been completed on one company's service.

In these circumstances it will be understood that the little party of guests who went on board the *Monteagle* on April 30th felt more than ordinary interest in the vessel which they were to inspect. She has been brought out here by Captain Parry, and after her cargo had been discharged little time was left to get her in order to take her place on the increased service of C.P.R. steamers on the Trans-Pacific route. Although she is still in the hands of numerous artisans, it is not difficult to see how admirably adapted she is for passenger and cargo traffic. The *Monteagle*, which made her debut on the Eastern run on May 2nd, will be a companion ship to the *Athenian* and *Tartar*, the two vessels of the intermediate service inaugurated this year. A large modern, twin-screw passenger steamer of 6,163 tons, she has accommodation for 125 saloon passengers. As is already known these are one class named "intermediate". A look round her comfortable cabins and the usual apartments which convenience and pleasure demand nowadays will convince anyone that the *Monteagle* is a most desirable vessel in which to travel. It should be noted that a new departure has been made here. It is a European steerage, which should meet with the appreciation of travellers who find it desirable to economise. On board the ship there is accommodation also for over 1,000 Asiatics.

After tiffin a few additional facts were gleaned from the speeches that followed. Mr. Craddock, the acting general agent, made the incontrovertible statement that the *Monteagle* was an acquisition to the intermediate fleet. Although the work necessary for her adaptation to the Eastern service was not finished it would be completed next trip. Captain Parry would take the ship across to Vancouver, where Captain Robinson, of the *Athenian*, would take command. Mr. Cooper, chief officer of the *Athenian*, being promoted to the premier position on that vessel. Mr. Richardson, the superintendent, gave some details of the work contemplated, pointing out that a ship coming from home must undergo considerable alteration to suit the different conditions obtaining in the East. The *Monteagle* was the first ship from the Atlantic fleet to be placed on the eastern service, but he hoped to see some more Empresses. Mr. Craddock commented on the fact that when the "Empresses" were put on the run first they were alluded to as "white elephants", but now they were likely to be known as the "white swans". Other complimentary speeches followed.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

April 30th.

FLOOD IN CANTON.

The heavy rains that have prevailed during the whole month, when scarcely a day has passed without a heavy shower, have swollen the river to such an extent that reports are to hand from all quarters regarding the loss of life and damage to property done all over the province. The country between Fatshan and Tam-shui is almost entirely under water, the trains have stopped running, and the damage done to the line is said to be considerable. In certain places the track has been almost completely washed away. The rice crop, of course, is lost; and the first silk crop will not yield more than 20 per cent. of the average. Famine is looming ahead and in view of a rise in the price of rice consumers are purchasing all they can at the present rates. In the Canton river alone, over forty lives have been lost within the last few days. Honam is flooded and at flood tide the streets in the neighbourhood of Shancun are completely under water. It is reported that in Fatshan the business is conducted by means of boats, the town being transformed into a Chinese Venice.

PLAQUE AND SUPERSTITION IN CHINA.

Plague is as prevalent as ever in Canton and many victims die daily. A big procession has been organised, and the God of Medicine is being carried about the city to obtain an abatement of the epidemic. Large crowds assemble where the procession forms, and "chin-chin the joss" as it forms, while holy water is thrown on the crowd

by means of twigs dipped into an enormous brass basin carried by twenty bearers. This water is supposed to give immunity to those who are touched by it.

FOREIGN ENGINEERS.

That Canton is developing no one will doubt. We have now amongst us, a new firm, Messrs Howarth Erskine, who have opened a branch office here. This well-known firm of engineers are to be commended for their enterprise; they are apparently working under the motto "first come, first served". They are sure to secure a fair share of the engineering constructions in Canton.

May 2nd.

THE INUNDATION.

It is reported that the Fatshan-Samshui line is heavily damaged through the flood. At one place above Fatshau a five hundred feet section of the line has sunk. The company is said to have brought over 10,000 bags filled with sand to fill up the gap. The line is not operating yet. The roads in Fatshan are bridged over with bamboos where convenient. In other places trading is done by means of harbour boats. Fatshan has not weathered such a severe flood within the last fifteen years.

RAILWAY DIRECTORATE.

At a meeting held by the merchants and gentry the following men have been appointed as members of the Canton-Hankow railway directorate:—

Taotai Chiang To-chai, President; Wong King-tong, Vice-President; Hew Ying-hung, Chan Lun-shut, Cho Chung-fan, Li Yuk-won, Kwok To and Lo Ting-kwong, directors. Their nomination has been submitted to and approved by the Viceroy.

A MISADVENTURE.

Steamers might give more ample warning of their departure by blowing their whistles twice. The gangways are often drawn away suddenly, and people seeing friends off are sometimes entrapped in this way. It is reported that a European officer of the Imperial Chinese Post Office had to jump off the steamer leaving this morning. He missed his footing and dropped into the river. There was a strong current running, but he got out safely. It appears that he had asked the steward to warn him in time, but this the Chinaman naturally forgot to do.

CANTON IMPERIAL CUSTOMS.

The Viceroy has appointed H. E. Woo, the provincial treasurer, to be superintendant of the Imperial Customs in Canton.

RAILWAY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Up to the end of the third Moon, \$2,561,820 have been collected by the Canton-Hankow Railway Company from subscribers in Hongkong, Fatshan, and Canton.

DOING HIS BEST.

Viceroy Shum has greatly pleased the people by his efforts to frighten away the rain. He personally offered sacrifices on April 30th, and prayed that the rain would cease. As extra precautions, no pigs are to be slaughtered for a few days, and the provincial artillery is ordered to blaze away twice daily and nightly at the clouds. This keeps everybody awake, but it has had no other effect so far. It is still raining.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

RECLAMATION WORK.

April 30th.

The Government of this city is at last waking up a little, and I am glad to be able to state that work has already begun to reclaim a further ten metres of the sea front near the Heungshan's wharf, and also of that part immediately under the "Boa Vista" Hotel up to the Bishop's Bay, altogether about 150 metres.

CURIOSITY THEFT.

Yesterday morning the Macao-Hongkong cable of the Eastern Extension A. & C. Telegraph Company was found to be interrupted. The Company immediately set about finding what was wrong. On examination it was discovered that the cable house near Cecilia had been broken open and several yards of the submarine cable were missing. The work of

repairing was at once begun and in the afternoon communication with Hongkong was once more restored.

AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

PRODUCTION OF "A COUNTRY MOUSE."

In writing of the performances of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, one is usually placed in the fortunate position of having to use only expressions of praise, and the latest production of this versatile combination being fully up to the standard of previous efforts again makes the critic's task a pleasant one. Although amateurs invariably acquit themselves better in the lighter pieces, it has to be admitted that "A Country Mouse" presents more difficulties than the typical comedy. The rollicking mirthfulness, which must be natural to be effective, is absent from Mr. Law's production, and the portrayal and expression of the satire call as much for psychological study as bistrionic ability. In that the principals were decidedly successful, though a little more swing, to quicken the performance, would have been desirable.

When the curtain rung up on Saturday night the Royal Theatre was well filled by an assembly which, though prepared to extend indulgence to the artists, at the same time anticipated an excellent entertainment. And needless to say they were not disappointed. The brilliance of the dialogue, sparkling with wit and keenly satirical, lost nothing through its exponents, and the merry laugh and hearty chuckle indicated that the points had not been missed by the auditors.

Doubtless most of our readers have some knowledge of this satirical comedy. An apparently ingenuous unsophisticated girl comes up from the country for a holiday in London, and finds herself in the midst of a Society set whose doings are no better than what is understood usually characterise the smart set. The men and women have no respect for the sanctity of the marriage ties: indeed it is this pleasure of poaching on other people's preserves that relieve their lives from that ennui which Society people are supposed to suffer. In the hands of Mr. Law the author, this has suggested satirical treatment, a suggestion of which may be conveyed in the exclamation of "Lord Robert Wyckham" to the woman on whom he bestowed his affection: "I have loved you since the day I first saw your husband". This satire is further crystallised in the scene where he upbraids the woman for having deceived him into believing that she was married, otherwise there was no charm for him in their love making. The country girl coming into such an atmosphere causes something of a sensation among the men and creates jealousy among the women. But it transpires she is not so simple as she looks and despite the fact that she so constantly proclaims herself as from the country, she shows her astuteness by marrying the wealthy old Duke. From this it will be seen that she differs very little from the people among whom she finds herself, only her methods are different.

Of the performance itself little was left to be desired. All the players seemed well fitted for their parts and acquitted themselves in the highly creditable manner which distinguish most of the works of the Amateur Dramatic Club. Mrs. Francis Clark had a most difficult rôle as "Lady Sylvia Bowlby", the society lady who was given in marriage to her husband in settlement of her father's debts, who talks of inviting her husband to dinner, and who carries on an intrigue with one of the bachelors belonging to the smart set. In her portrayal of character and events such as are to be met with in real life there was none of that exaggeration which occasionally jars on the audience. No reproach could be brought against her performance, in which she displayed considerable resource, and her powerful acting at the close of the second act when she unconsciously disclosed her feelings to the "Country Mouse" was deservedly applauded. The "Angela Muir" of Miss Shelton Hooper was conceived in the spirit of the true artist. The simple artlessness of the country maid was charming, and besides being a favourite with her associates on the stage, she won the golden opinions of her hearers, and was presented with several floral tributes

in the course of the evening. Mrs. Van der Woude played with refreshing verve as "Violet Aynsley", who though single represented herself as married in order to attract the romantic "Lord Bob". Although the names of four ladies appeared on the programme we were unable to discover the fourth. Doubtless there was some good explanation for this omission. Turning now to the gentlemen, perhaps the first we should mention is Mr. H. W. Smith, R.A., who presented a portrait admirable in every respect of the "Hon. Archibald Vyse", and was throughout natural and convincing "Lord Robert Wyckham", who objected to the commonplace in love, found a capable exponent in Mr. L. J. C. Anderson, while Mr. Kendall achieved a distinct success as the "Duke of St. Kitts". The less onerous part of "John Bowlby, M. P.", was well taken by Mr. F. C. Kendall. Neither Mr. W. J. Daniels "Jephcott", the butler, nor Mr. T. C. Lethbridge, the manservant, had much to do, but that little was well done, a remark which also applies to the performance of Mr. Tester, whose name did not appear on the programme but whose impress was apparent to all who have seen and heard his previous excellent characterisations.

It should be added that the play was beautifully mounted, the scenery being from designs by Mr. H. W. Bird. Everything went well, and perhaps the only disappointment was that the audience expected more of it.

OSTASIATISCHER VEREIN.

The East-Asiatic Union, or Hamburg Association of Persons Interested in the Far East, held its annual "Liebesmahl" on March 31st, at the Hamburger Hof. The *Hamburger Nachrichten* describes the gorgeous decorations, which included the German and Hamburg flags, the standard of Prince Henry, and some English and Japanese flags. There were 223 present, including H. R. H. Prince Heinrich von Preussen, His Magnificency Burgermeister Dr. Burchardt, H. M. B. Dr. Stammann, H. E. Admiral von Tirpitz, H. E. Freiberg von Heyding (late Ambassador at Peking), and others, with whom we are told there were the following "Hongkongites":—

Messrs. Robert Becker, Theodor Bieber, Carl Albers, C. von Boe, W. Detmers, A. Finke, Julius Focke, I. H. Garrels, I. Goosmann, Otto Gachwind, H. Haesloop, I. I. B. Heemskerk, F. Höhnke, J. Jebsen, P. G. Kribbe, L. Lambotte, Ph. Moeller, Joh. F. Moeller, E. Niedhardt, W. Rudelaff, P. Sachse, Ad. Ernst Schuldt, F. Seip, Gustav Sierich, C. Thiel, Adolf Toecke, F. Urbig, A. Wasserfall, F. A. Wendt, and Gustav Wieler. Captain Lans, who commanded the *Iltis* at Taku, was also present.

Mr. GUELZOW, the Chairman, toasted H. M. the Emperor, and Hamburg and its workers. The present peace in the Far East was gratifying, but there was still room for anxiety as to the ultimate fate of China. Both toasts were amply honoured.

Dr. BURCHARDT was entrusted with the toast of the evening, the Ostasiatischen Verein, and in a long speech referred to the war and Japan's rise to power; dwelt on the importance of marking every opening for German commercial enterprise; and had no doubt that if they continued to pull together, they would, step by step, succeed in their object. This Association was now six years old, and had done much good; he trusted it would flourish for many years to come, to the benefit of German industry and commerce (applause).

Herr GUSTAV WIELER proposed those who are yet in the East, in the following touching little speech: Er wies darauf hin, dass alle, die sich heute in diesem Raum versammelt haben, Beziehungen zu dem Osten haben und mit dem Osten in dieser oder jener Weise verknüpft seien. Manche von den Anwesenden hätten vieler Jahre dort zugebracht und hingen mit dem Herzen am fernen Osten; die einen haben ihre Laufbahn im Osten abgeschlossen, die andern wollen dahin zurückkehren. Er wünsche, dass keiner die Zeit, die er im Osten geweilt, bereuen möge. Es sei aber auch viele draussen im Osten geblieben, und dieser möge man heute in Ehren gedenken. (Here all stood up, silently, in the so expressive German fashion.) Doch ebenso müsse man

derer sich erinnern, die jetzt noch draussen schaffen und wirken zur Förderung von Handel und Wandel, von Schifffahrt und Industrie, zum Heile des deutschen Vaterlandes.

The toast was honoured, and after a telegram had been sent to the Kaiser, the company adjourned to the Winter Garden for coffee and cigars. The *Nachrichten* refers specially to the friendly sociability of Prince Heinrich at this happy "love feast".

CARGO INSURANCE AT SHANGHAI.

The following letter from the Shanghai Marine Underwriters' Association was received by the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce:—"Since the damage arising from the flooding of wharf godowns on 2nd September, 1905, the framing of a clause calculated to meet the views of insurers and insured has occupied the attention of the Associations of Underwriters, at home, and the following was drawn up and added to the Eastern Rates Agreement to apply to all shipments by vessels advertised to sail on and after 1st January, 1906:—

'From shippers' or manufacturers' warehouse until on board the vessel, and from the vessel, whilst on quays, wharves, or in sheds during the ordinary course of transit until safely deposited in consignees' or other warehouse at port of discharge.'

While generally meeting the views of my Committee, it is suggested that the clause would be more suitable for shipments to Shanghai if the words 'stored in' were inserted between 'or' and 'other warehouse'. The clause would then read:—

'From shippers' manufacturers' warehouse until on board the vessel, and from the vessel, whilst on quays, wharves, or sheds during the ordinary course of transit until safely deposited in consignees' or stored in other warehouse at port of discharge'.

The addition is suggested in view of the fact that, during times of congested storage at the wharves, storage godowns are sometimes used for transit cargo as well and a difficulty might arise in such cases as to the liability under the Marine Policy.

I am instructed to ask for an expression of opinion from your Committee as to which of the above two clauses is the more acceptable to merchants."

The Chamber replied as follows:—"Your letter of the 13th March has been before my Committee, who are of opinion that the word 'finally' before 'stored in' would further elucidate your amended clause.

The clause would then read: 'from shippers' or manufacturers' warehouse until on board the vessel, and from the vessel, whilst on quays, wharves, or in sheds during the ordinary course of transit until safely deposited in consignees, or finally stored in other warehouse at port of discharge.'

SHANGHAI TRAMS.

As announced at the time in our telegraphic news, the formal commencement of the construction of an electric tramway system at Shanghai was made on April 24th, at the Yangtsepoo terminus. There was quite a large assembly, those present including a number of ladies and Messrs. E. Wheeley (of A. Dent & Co., representatives of the Construction Company), Cecil Holliday (Chairman of the Municipal Council), W. Wright (representing Messrs. Harper Brothers, and consulting engineer to the Construction Company), W. Jamieson and W. G. Hamilton (representing Messrs. Bruce, Peebles & Co., contractors), H. Shorrock (China agent of Messrs. Bruce, Peebles & Co.), J. Osborne, F. H. Crossley, J. Edie Bingham, B. Atkinson, G. L. Oberg, W. J. Gresson, E. S. Little, H. de Gray, F. C. Heffer, O. Meuser, A. P. Wood, J. H. Tordale, W. H. Poate, E. T. J. Blount, P. Tilley, C. Mayne, C. H. Godfrey, and many Chinese.

The Chairman of the Municipal Council, Mr. Cecil Holliday, broke first ground with a handsome plated pick, on the handle of which was a shield bearing the inscription "Shanghai Tramways. First stone picked by Cecil Holliday, Esq., Chairman of the Municipal Council, April, 1906."

At a subsequent tiffin, Mr. E. Wheeley said he was very gratified with the interest the

Chinese gentlemen had taken in the tramways and hoped that this interest would continue and that the Chinese Municipal Council would see its way to adopt tramways in or around the Chinese city. If the Chinese officials saw their way to entertain any such scheme he was sure that Mr. Shorrock and Mr. Wright would be very glad to offer their services and do what they could to help carry it out. Mr. Tsao replied on behalf of the Chinese Municipal Council.

Mr. Shorrock submitted "Success to the French Municipality." He said that dwellers on this side of the Yangkingpang had for some time past looked with considerable interest on the way the Council on the other side conducted its business and more particularly on the way in which they laid out their roads, on which he congratulated them. It was satisfactory to know that the relations between the two Councils were such that they seemed to share the entente cordiale which had been established between the two countries at home. The friendship was very satisfactory to both. Tramways were to be laid down on the French side and they were to be on the same system as on this side, so he hoped the time would come when the Councils would make an agreement to run their trams right through over each other's lines. Mr. E. T. J. Blount responded on behalf of Mr. G. Henriot, who had left. He said that when the French Council did come to lay down their tramways he was sure that any suggestions would be welcomed which came from the Council of the larger Settlement. The Chairman proposed the toast of "The Municipal Council of the International Settlement" coupling with it the name of Mr. Cecil Holliday. In response, the Chairman of Council said that when he came to Shanghai in 1877 people were talking about tramways, and now they were to have them. He hoped that even those who had opposed the tramways, when whirled out to their country residences at the speed of a motor car, and at the price of a ricksha, would find some compensation and perhaps consolation for the fact that their objections had not availed.

REVIEWS.

Children of Far Cathay, by CHARLES J. HALCOMBE. Hongkong: Daily Press Office.

"The Children of Far Cathay" is not unknown to our readers. It recently appeared as a serial in the columns of the *Daily Press*, and now its publication in book form will be appreciated as much by those who enjoyed a little of it week by week as well as those who now peruse it for the first time. The author, Mr. Charles J. Halcombe, has in previous writing displayed his knowledge of Chinese life and customs, and while his descriptions of social customs and superstitions in the Middle Kingdom give a certain value to the present novel, his exposition of Chinese politics, and particularly the aspirations of the reform party will be found deeply interesting alike to the student of things Chinese and to the individual who reads the novel for the pleasure it affords. Writing with sympathy, Mr. Halcombe emphasises once more the fact that the Chinese is not a rude barbarian or ignorant savage. He belongs to an ingenious but antiquated civilisation, which makes the point of view altogether different, and accounts for the difficulties and misunderstandings which so frequently arise between the Celestial and the Occidental. Besides that, the people being the victims of misgovernment, national and local, have to suffer for sins which cannot fairly be laid to their charge. The story itself is of absorbing and at times thrilling interest. There is plenty of movement, beginning with the oppression of a tyrannical taotai, the discontent which it provoked, a sensational escape, and ending with the revolt which culminated in the downfall of the tyrant and the spread of ideas of enlightenment and reform, and some of the incidents are characterised with dramatic force and tensity. Although the principal character is a missionary, a class about whom there is more than one opinion, he is not of the objectionable fanatical type. As the result of his intercourse with the people, as well as from his own good sense, he is led to realise the good in other religious beliefs. He does not believe

any the less in his own religion. He is merely more rational and therefore more tolerant of other ideas. He simply adopts other methods for winning the people to the Christianity which he still regards as the one true religion. For instance, the Bible which he hands as a gift to his Chinese friend, who is a distinguished scholar and leader of the revolutionary forces, is the cause of that individual professing Christianity, a result which would never have been attained had he pursued his old frontal attacks. The love element is more picturesque than usual by reason of the Chinese influence, the missionary himself marrying a Chinese lady who had defied native custom in assisting him when stricken down by the mob. Altogether the "Children of Far Cathay" will be found a most readable book, and an excellent volume indeed for presentation to friends at home, being well bound in yellow cloth with Chinese emblems in gold. Its price is \$3.50.

A FATAL FIGHT.

ALLEGED MANSLAUGHTER.

A carpenter named Kwong Cheng went to the Government Civil Hospital last week and died a few days afterwards from injuries received during a fight with another carpenter. Inquiries had by this time been instituted by the police and it was ascertained that the victim had been in the habit of receiving visits from a fellow tradesman named Chang Hing, but as his employer objected to the frequent visits Cheng informed his friend of the fact. The latter resented such interference, and quarrelled with his friend, words being exchanged for blows. It was alleged that in the course of the fight, Chan Hing picked up a piece of wood and struck Kwong Cheng on the head. Next morning the latter went to the Magistracy and applied for a summons against the former for assault, and the application having been granted, the case was to be heard yesterday. In the meantime Kwong Cheng had taken ill and going to the hospital died as stated. Chan Hing was arrested and charged at the Magistracy yesterday with the manslaughter of Kwong Cheng on 25th April. He pleaded not guilty and the case was adjourned till Monday.

ENTERTAINING FRENCH AND JAPANESE FLEETS.

Subscriptions previously acknowledged \$2,210.
Since received:

R. R. Hynd 20.
Moosa E. Vieira & Co... 15.

Total subscriptions received .. \$2,245.
All bills have now been paid and the account is closed by the guarantors paying a call of \$183.56 each.

J. R. M. Smith,
Hon. Treasurer.

The following is a list of the guarantors:
The Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. C. W. Dickson, the Hon. Mr. R. Shewan, the Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart, Messrs. A. Babington, T. P. Cochrane, E. A. Hewett, T. F. Hough, E. S. Kadourie, D. R. Law, S. A. Levy, G. H. Medhurst, H. N. Mody, A. H. Rennie, E. Shellim, J. R. M. Smith and A. G. Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS OF NAMES OF CHINESE PROVINCES.

This list is to be adopted officially by the Chinese Imperial Post Office and other government offices. It is supplied to us by the Statistical Department of the I.M.C.:—

Anhwei	An	Kweichow	...	Kwei
Chekiang	Che	Manchuria	...	Man
Chihi	Chi	Shengking	...	King
Fukien	Fu	Kirin	...	Kir
Honan	Ho	Heilungkiang	Hei	
Hunan	Hun	Shansi	...	Sha
Hupeh	Hup	Shantung	...	Sht
Kansu	Kan	Shensi	...	She
Kiangsi	Ki	Sinkiang	...	Sin
Kiangsu	Ku	Szechwan	...	Sze
Kwangsi	Si	Yunnan	...	Yun
Kwangtung	Tung			

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 21st April, 1906, states:—The house markets are quiet; Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 12-10½ and in Lyons at Fcs. 35.87. Raw Silk.—Since the date of our last Circular Easter Holidays have intervened, consequently there is little business to report. The stock of Tsattees is now reduced to about 600 bales; sales recorded show no change in rate. Yellow Silk.—A few settlements have been made. Hand tulatures—A few parcels of Ordinary reel Filafires have been taken for Europe. Steam Filatures.—Sales this week have been on a moderate scale and confined to European Operators. Waste Silk.—Market there keeps quiet, as there are no stocks. There has been some business done in Tussah Waste 6.-40 Tls. 22½.

CANTON, 21st April, 1906:—Long-reels.—During the earlier part of the fortnight the market was rather quiet; latterly, under the influence of improved advices from Europe, buyers have shown more readiness to meet holders, and a good deal of business has ensued. Fine sizes are becoming daily more and more scarce. Some contracts in new silk, chiefly market cargo 11/13, 18/15, 14/18 and 18/22 have been booked at limits a little under our quotations. From sales made we quote: Fres. Tsung Wai Hung 11/13 at \$930, Kun Wa Lun 9/11 at \$925, On Wo Hung 9/11 at \$915, Tung Wo Hung & Quang Wo Hung 10/12 at \$910, Wing Po Cheong 10/12 at \$900, Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13 at \$905, Liug Chai 11/13 at \$895, Kun Kun Tai 13/15 at \$900, Sun Yue Lun 16/18 at \$855, Shun Kee 16/18 at \$850, Kwong Cheong Sing 18/22 at \$780, Best 3me, or 1re 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 at from \$750 to \$760. Short-reels—The demand from New York has increased, but contracts in new silk have only been booked to a small extent owing to the high prices asked by dealers. Kwong Shun Ching 14/16 (6th crop) has fetched \$875. Waste Silk.—Has been in better demand, and buying has recommenced on a large scale. Values in the interior are upheld, and are beyond the reach of foreign buyers. There have been some transactions in new waste for delivery in July/August/September at a little under our quotations. Stock of Silk in Canton: 1,200 bales.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd May.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.
Malwa New \$950 to — per picul.
Malwa Old \$1000 to — do.
Malwa Older \$1050 to — do.
Malwa Very Old \$1100 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality \$950 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine ... \$1000 to — do.
Patna New \$880 to — per chest.
Patna Old \$860 to — do.
Benares New \$810 to — do.
Benares Old — to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 3rd May, state that 18 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 70,300 tons of coal. Since April 20th 13 steamers have arrived with a total of 47,925 tons of coal. The Report also states that Cardiff and Australian coal has been neglected during the fortnight. In Japanese a small business is reported, and prices inclined to weaken. Holders however are firm in their demand. Market closes generally steady.

Quotations:—

Cardiff \$15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian \$9.50 to \$10.25 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump \$12.00 nominal.
Miiki Lump \$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump \$9.00 to \$10.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike \$0.75 to \$10.00 steady.
Bengal \$9.00 to \$10.00 nominal.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—Moderate business at a decline of \$1 to \$1. Stock about 400 bales.
Bombay \$16.50 to \$20.50 per picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon { 22.00 to 24.00
and Dacca
Shanghai and Japanese 26.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo 26.00 to 27.00
Reported sales 150 bales.

[May 5, 1906.]

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 4th May, says:—The interval has been an extremely dull one, and there seems to be no immediate relief at hand. Settlements are again on a very limited scale and confined to suitable grades of No. 20s for the Northern and Tonkin markets. The lower counts move very slowly, being taken up only in retail lots for the small wants of the city. Prices of No. 20 remain fairly steady, but quotations for the lower counts have become more or less nominal, as holders, to effect sales, have to submit to the ideas of buyers. There is no change in stocks which, however, continue very heavy considering the condition of the market, and with the heavy shipments on the waters now shortly expected, will not fail sooner or later to tell seriously on an already abnormally overstocked and declining market. The drop in prices from the highest point of the year is to-day computed at from \$7 to \$12 per bale. Bombay is reported weak with spinners pressing for orders.

Sales of the fortnight aggregate 1,034 bales; arrivals amount to 8,198; unsold stock estimated at 80,000; and sold but uncleared yarn 65,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—No business is reported.

Japanese Yarn:—A parcel of 50 bales Kanega-fuchi No. 16s, sold at \$130, is the only business of the fortnight.

Raw Cotton:—The market is dull, and with comparatively heavy receipts of Indian descriptions dealers hold aloof, and only a few small lots aggregating 250 bales Superfine Bengals have found buyers at \$23, leaving 1,630 bales in stock. In China kinds 170 bales Shanghai have changed hands at \$25. Stock 210 bales. Quotations are Indian \$20 to \$23 and China \$23 to \$25.

Exchange on India has steadily advanced in sympathy with silver, and closes firm to-day at Rs. 156 $\frac{1}{2}$ for T/T and Rs. 157 $\frac{1}{2}$ for Post. On Shanghai 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ and on Japan 102 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 21st ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—A slight revival in the demand for No. 10s has taken place at fairly steady prices. Total sales about 1,200 bales. Estimated unsold stock 75,000.

Japanese:—A somewhat better business has been done at steady prices, sales amounting to 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 91 to 97 for No. 16s, and Tls. 107 to 108 $\frac{1}{2}$ for 20s.

Local:—No fresh contracts are reported.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 26th April, 1906, states:—The event of the interval since we wrote our last report has of course been the terrible misfortune which has befallen San Francisco, the Queen of the Pacific Slope. Naturally the news received so far has been somewhat meagre, and any particulars as to what damage or loss may have been sustained to cargo awaiting shipment to this market is altogether lacking. The only definite bit of information is that there will be no further sailings for this port for some time to come, but that does not throw any light on the subject. Although unbroken or interfered with either by holidays or bad weather the week we have under review is absolutely devoid of any interest. The market is lifeless and business is almost at a standstill. Clearances are most unsatisfactory, though owing to the plethora of ready money here buyers are able to pay for goods bought and take up their exchange contracts; but the cargo remains in the godowns which are becoming more and more congested. Interested natives here still continue to declare that the Manchurian markets are overstocked with goods, more particularly American, that were rushed up last year. It is difficult to give credence to this, but at the same time it is impossible to verify it. This is given as the natural cause of the present lack of demand, but on the other hand it is also stated with equal positiveness that the consumptive demand is being supplied by direct importations from Japan, and also by largely increased shipments of Nankeens, or native woven cloth, for which latter, it is claimed, very high prices are being paid. Another theory is that the New-chwang merchants are following the example of Tientsin and are joining in the freezing out process this market is undoubtedly undergoing. It is certainly not pleasant to contemplate, whatever the stoppage of the trade is due to, and it is having a very wearying effect on holders here. As regards Corea we learn from the results of a personal investigation that the depression there is caused not altogether by the excessive importations, but is greatly due to the attempted introduction of the Japanese currency, the initial

consequence of the process being that the nickel coinage of the country is being called in at the rate of two to one of the new coin, which the masses are resenting, and it is anticipated that it will take some time before they become reconciled to it. A good rice crop will be a great help towards it, but the effects are not expected to be realised until next year at the earliest. The river markets continue in the same depressed state that we have had occasion to despise so often before, and is so very different to what was anticipated would be the case on the introduction of railways. With renewed buying for India the Manchester market is, if anything, stronger than ever. Telegrams are being constantly received urging buyers to place their orders promptly if they want to be in it "next season" but from present appearances there seems to be a likelihood that sufficient supplies have already been bought for this market. The natives are not taking any more, and importers who have bought in anticipation declare they have not

been able to place more than half, although their purchases were only a moiety of the accustomed quantity. In the meantime cotton, at least the American staple, has declined to 8.03d. in Liverpool, but on the other hand Egyptian is firmer at 10d. We have heard of no news of the American market. Imported Yarns are in a very depressed state, especially Indian, which have been very much overdone, and native indentors are said to be losing very heavily. The supply is by no means decreasing, the shipments during the last three weeks being upwards of 39,000 bales, of which over 17,000 bales arrived by the last mail boat. Meanwhile the consumptive demand here has declined to a minimum. As regards current business it is practically nil, resales being almost as seldom as business from first hands, the only transaction at the moment being the usual weekly auctions, and to them we must refer for some indication of the state of the market.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 4th May.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—Market has continued quiet and a very trifling business has passed. Prices show a further decline from \$1 to \$2 per bale. Quotations are nominal:—No. 10s. at \$87 to \$111; No. 16s. at \$112 to \$129, and No. 20s. at \$116 to \$143. Arrivals 26,000 bales; Shipments 8,500 bales; Sales 1,500 bales; Bargains 70,000 bales. Unsold stock, 62,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ... 160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ... 167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ... 180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Market weak. Very little doing.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. ... \$2.20 to \$2.25
7 lbs. ... 2.30 to 2.85
8.4 lbs. ... 3.20 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs. ... 4.25 to 5.30

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.75 to 3.00
58 to 60, ... 3.10 to 3.75
64 to 66, ... 3.80 to 5.50

Fine 6.25 to 8.00
Book-folds 5.50 to 8.20

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.75 to 1.60

T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.30 to 2.50
7 lbs. (32 in.), " 2.70 to 3.30
6 lbs. (32 in.), Mexs. 2.50 to 2.75
7 lbs. (32 in.), " 3.00 to 3.30

Drills, English—40 yds., 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 5.50 to 8.00
to 14 lbs. } 5.50 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—Sales unimportant. Market sick.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to } \$1.70 to \$4.35
8 lbs. } per piece

Brocades—Dyed \$0.124 to \$0.15

Velvets—Black, 22 in. ... 0.23 to 0.45

Velveteens—18 in. ... 0.22 to 0.27

Woolens—Sales unimportant. Market sick.

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chopes \$0.70 to \$2.05

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.10 to 3.50

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. \$6.15 to \$9.50

Assorted 6.9 to 9.65

Camlets—Assorted 13.00 to 31.00

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } 13.0 to 20.00

Assorted 13.0 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain, 31 in. ... 8.50 to 10.00

Blankets—5 to 12 lbs. ... \$0.65 to \$0.80

METALS—

	per picul.
Iron—Nail Rod	\$3.90
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)	3.90
Swedish Bar	3.95
Small Round Rod	4.30
Hoop 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in	6.00
Wire, 16-25 oz.	9.80
Wire Rope, Old	3.00
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop.	10.00
Australian	10.00
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.0
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	41.00
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	41.00
Tin	96.00
	per box
Tin-Plates	\$6.40
Quicksilver	\$127.00
Window Glass	\$5.00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 25th April, 1906:—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 38.00
Do. Seconds	33.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	19.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color	70.0
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	9.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.25
Green China Grass, Szechuen	12.50
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchew and/or Macheng	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	8.75
Animal Tallow	8.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	10.50
Do. Plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tingehow	8.00
Do. Wongkong	11.00
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	(")
Turmeric	3.50
Sesamum Seed	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.30
Tea Oil	10.00

Per steamer Kintuck, sailed on 24th April. For London or Cont.:—52 boxes camphor, etc. For Genoa:—18 bales canes. For Marseilles:—339 bales waste silk, etc., 411 bales canes. For Bordeaux:—210 rolls mats. For Havre:—113 bales canes. For Amsterdam:—19 cases private effects. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam or London:—100 cases galangal. For Rotterdam:—84 rolls matting. For London:—820 bales canes and matting, 300 casks preserves, etc., 372 packages merchandise. For London or Continent:—150 cases feathers. For Dundee:—30 bales tea mats. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For London or Continent:—315 cases cassia, 106 bales canes, etc. For Buenos Aires:—100 boxes tea. For Antwerp:—407 bales feathers, 117 rolls mats, etc. For Liverpool:—224 bales waste silk, etc.

Per M. M. Co's steamer Ernest Simons, sailed on 1st May. For Marseilles:—160 bales raw silk, 20 bales waste silk, 4 cases silk piece goods, 45 packages human hair, 62 rolls matting, 2 cases feathers, 9 cases provisions, 6 cases ylang ylang oil, 3 cases hats, 8 packages sundries. For Lyons:—178 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—2 cases private effects. For Port Said:—63 packages Chinese stone.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 3rd May, 1906.

Apricot	\$27 to \$29
Borax	\$13 " \$16
Cassia	\$14 " \$19
Cloves	\$21 " \$35
Camphor	\$155 "
Cow Bezoar	\$120 " \$140
Fennel Seed	\$6 " —
Galangal	\$3 " \$5
Grapes	\$14 " —
Kismis	\$18 " —
Liquor	\$26 " —
Olibanum	\$2 " \$16
Oil Sandalwood	\$220 " \$350
Rosa	\$150 " \$175
" Cassia	\$150 " —
Rainins	\$9 " —
Senna Leaves	\$3 " \$5
Sandalwood	\$25 " \$30
Saltpetre	\$10 " \$10.70

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 4th May, 1906.—We have but little change to report, business has been moderate, and chiefly of a cash nature, although a few time transactions are reported. Rates have ruled steady, but on the whole with a slight inclination to weakness.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have shown some weakness, presumably on account of the continued advance of sterling exchange, and the consequent inducement to release China scrip and buy the London, the difference between the two rates at the moment being somewhat abnormal. Sales have been made during the week at \$865 and \$860, the market closing with sellers at the latter rate. Nationals have ruled quieter and offers to sell at \$40 have met with no response; at time of closing a lower rate would be accepted, but buyers are not plentiful, and can make their own market to a great extent.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have ruled in demand and sales have resulted at \$770 ex the dividend of \$30, paid on the 30th ultimo. At time of closing shares could be placed at \$775, and possibly even at a further advance. Shares however are scarce and holders inclined to hold out for higher rates. China Traders' Certificates (\$170) are enquired for but none seem to be available, and until business is really put through it is difficult to give a quotation, although it is safe to say that they would command a fair premium. Cantons remain firm at \$355, but shares are scarce, and sellers demand a higher rate. The Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs remain unchanged with sellers at \$305 and only very small sales to report. Chinas continue neglected at \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have found further buyers at \$25 in fair lots, but close with sellers at that rate, while a point lower fails to bring out shares. Indo-Chinas have also been affected by the high exchange, and have ruled weak with sellers at \$92, and with but a small business. Douglasses have been placed at the reduced rate of \$40, closing steady at that. Star Ferries have changed hands at \$32 old, and \$22 new, and further shares could be placed at these rates. Shells remain at 27s. without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain dull and we have no cash business to report. On time however some small sales have taken place at \$178 for July, and \$180 for August; several other sales at erratic rates have taken place, chiefly cross transactions and take-overs, cash and time. The market closes more or less nominal. Luzons remain without business.

MINING.—We have no changes or business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved their position, and sales have been effected during the week at \$162, \$163 and \$164, the market however closes weakish at \$164 sellers. Kowloon Wharves continue neglected at \$104 without sales, and close with sellers. We have no other changes or business to report under this heading.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have further improved their position, and have been placed at \$119, closing with buyers at that rate. Sales of West Points are reported at \$53, and of Hotels at \$132. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Beyond sales of Hongkong Cottons at \$16, we have nothing to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been placed at the improved rate of \$7. China Providents at \$9. Fenwicks at \$22 and \$22½ (closing with sellers at \$22). Steam Waterboats at \$9½. China Light and Powers at \$0½, and Watsons at \$13½ and \$13¾. The last mentioned Company has just issued its report, which shows an increase of earnings on 19½ of £6,236. The amount carried forward is \$7,734, against \$6,096 for 1905. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows.—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Bank—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$860, sellers London, £90
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£5	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A... China-Borneo Co..... China Light & P. Co. China Provident	12s. 6d. \$12 \$10 \$10	\$7½, buyers \$7, sales \$10½, sales \$9, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 75
Hongkong	\$10	\$16, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67½
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 73
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co... H. & K. Wharf & G. H. & W. Dock	Tls. 100 \$50 \$50	Tls. 119. \$104½, sellers \$164, sellers
New Amoy Dock...	\$6½	\$17, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 225.
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement ...;	\$10	\$29½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas.... Hongkong Electric... Do. New	\$10 \$10 \$10	\$175, buyers \$17, sellers \$16½, sales & sel.
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$235, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$132, sales
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$235, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$9½, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$355, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	888, buyers
China Traders	\$25	nominal
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$305, sellers
North China.....	25	Tls. 87½, ex div.
Union	\$100	\$775, x. d. buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$119, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 119
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$53, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs.....	18/10	\$3
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$175, sellers
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$25
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$19
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales & buy.
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$25, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$10	\$98, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	27½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sales
Do. New	\$5	\$23, sales
Shanghai & H. Dyeing		
South China M. Post.		
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10½, sales & sel.
Watkins.....	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13½, sales & buy.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

Meerss. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 26th April, 1906, states:—The feature of the week under review has been the large business done in Wharves at improving rates. Prices of Cotton Stocks have hardly been maintained. Peraks have again been done at Tls. 85. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No business reported. The latest London quotation is £288. 10s. The T. T. rate on London is 2/10½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Tugs. Preference shares have changed hands at par and Tls. 51, and Ordinary shares at Tls. 61 and 62, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas. Only two operations have been reported in this stock, both at Tls. 67 for cash and April. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. The market for this stock is very dull, a small cash demand having been met by Tls. 120, when shares have changed hands at Tls. 124 and 123½ for July. Yangtze Wharves. There has been a fair business done in this stock at Tls. 220 April. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A good business has been done in this stock at Tls. 220, 222, 222, and Tls. 225 for cash and the Settlement, closing with buyers at the latter rate. The forward business done is quoted at Tls. 227½ June, Tls. 23½ and 232½ July. Sugar.—Peraks. These shares are again in demand, business has been done at Tls. 85. Mining.—Kaipings are in demand at Tls. 10½. There has been no business in Weihaiwei Golds. Lands.—No business reported, but Shanghai Lands are in demand at Tls. 118. Industrial.—Ewos have changed hands at Tls. 75 for cash and the Settlement, while for September shares have been sold at Tls. 80, Tls. 79 and 78, closing with buyers at the latter rate. Laou Kung Mows are in demand at Tls. 78, being a rise of Tls. 7 during the week. Internationals have been dealt in at Tls. 65 and 67½. China Flours at Tls. 80. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkawi. A good business was done in this stock during the week with shares easier at the close at Tls. 242½ cash & April, closing at Tls. 237½ for the same. Forward rates Tls. 242½, 245, 246½, 247½ June, Tls. 250 and 242½ July. Shanghai Sumatras. Small lots of shares have changed hands at Tls. 87. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies have been dealt in at Tls. 17 and 17½. Astor House Shares at \$22½ ex div. Centrals at \$15½ new issue and S. Moutrics at \$72½. Miscellaneous.—Horse Bazaars have been dealt in at Tls. 50. Telephones have been in demand at Tls. 67 owing to the satisfactory report presented, by which we see that it is intended to pay Tls. 4 per share, equal to 8 per cent, and to raise the reserve fund to Tls. 100,000. Loans.—No business done.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 4th May.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/1
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1

ON LONDON.—

Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/1
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	264
Credits 4 months' sight	268

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	215
-----------------	-----

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	50½
Credits, 60 days' sight	51½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	156½
Bank, on demand	157½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	156½
Bank, on demand	157½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	102½
-----------------	------

ON MANILA.—

On demand	102½
-----------------	------

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	12 p.c.p.m.
-----------------	-------------

ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	126½
-----------------	------

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

3 p.c.p.m.

ON SAIGON.—On demand

2½ p.c.p.m.

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

61½

SOVEREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate

\$9.50

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

\$50.20

BAR SILVER, per oz

30½

VERNNO & SMYTH, Brokers

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April— ARRIVALS.

- 29, Hopsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 29, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 29, Terrier, Norwegian str., from Iloilo.
 30, Benmohr, British str., from London.
 30, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
 30, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 30, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 30, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 30, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 30, Kwangse, British str., from Wuhu.
 30, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 30, Neumuehlen, German str., from Moji.
 30, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Phrauang, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
 30, Reim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 30, Taiyuan, British str., from Yokohama.
 30, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 30, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

May—

- 1, Deucalion, British str., from Liverpool.
 1, Emp. of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 1, Fallodon Hall, British str., from Moji.
 1, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 1, Johanne, German str., from Bangkok.
 1, Laos, French str., from Colombo.
 1, Peik, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 1, Rio Lima, Portuguese str., from Shanghai.
 1, Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.
 1, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 2, Amiral Beaumont, Fr. str., from Haiphong.
 2, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 2, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 2, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
 2, Dajin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 2, Derwent, British str., from Chinkiang.
 2, Esang, British str., from Tientsin.
 2, Glencochy, British str., from London.
 2, Haiphong, Fr. dredger, from Haiphong.
 2, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 2, Kent, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 2, Pocasset, British str., from Saigon.
 2, Renomme, French str., from Haiphong.
 2, Seneca, British str., from Kobe.
 3, Dongola, British str., from Bombay.
 3, Haus Wagner, German str., from Iloilo.
 3, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.
 3, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
 3, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.

April— DEPARTURES.

- 30, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
 30, Dagny, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 30, Hilary, German str., for Canton.
 30, Hopsang, British str., for Canton.
 30, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 30, Marie, German str., for Bangkok.

May—

- 1, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 1, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
 1, Faussang, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 1, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 1, Jason, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Seattle.
 1, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 1, Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
 1, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 1, Progress, Norw. str., for Pulo Laut.
 1, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Taikosan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 1, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 2, Chowfa, German str., for Bangkok.
 2, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 2, Kaifong, British str., for Iloilo.
 2, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 2, Kwangse, British str., for Canton.
 2, Laos, French str., for Shanghai.
 2, Maidzurn Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 2, Monteagle, British str., for Vancouver.
 2, Palawan, British str., for Yokohama.
 2, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Australia.
 2, Segovia, German str., for Singapore.
 2, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Batavia.
 3, Andromeda, British cruiser, for home.
 3, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 3, Cheongshing, British str., for Tientsin.
 3, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 3, Deucalion, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Hanggang, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Rio Lima, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
 3, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 3, Tientsin, British str., for Kobe.
 3, Tinggang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mrs. C. Hohn; from Shanghai, Miss Sanyer, Messrs. Rofod, Hunt, Henriquez, J. Aaron; for Saigon from Yokohama, Mr. Johnston, Mrs. and Miss Peralle, Mr. Ballus; from Shanghai, Mr. Dalene, Mrs. Itso, Mr. Ferrand; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mr. Clunies Ross; from Shanghai, Messrs. Weaner, Martin, W. Knopp, H. Schmidt; for Colombo from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Tallers; for Bombay from Kobe, Mr. Evra; for Port Said from Yokohama, Mr. Burzagli, Comtesse Mansfeld, Miss Nedbal; from Shanghai, Mr. Terdiki; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Cuvelier, Gac, Le Gof Rouget, Hubert, Masse, Alfonso, Durbec, Barach; from Kobe, Mr. Tasetura; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Kremer, Messrs. Grossin, Reynaud, Dupuy, Marchand, Mrs. Bortet, Rev. and Mrs. Valpredas, Messrs. Rheins, Gatti, Jues, Neuf, Mrs. Dalmens, Messrs. Le Coster and Lecoutlet.

Per Caledonien, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Messrs. Dykes and Gelis; from Colombo, Messrs. Cheilletz and Umer; from Singapore, Messrs. Pryke, Cuming, Combay, Miss Hartwig, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Dunlop, Mr. Lynn; from Saigon, Mr. Baublat, Miss Fresnedo, Messrs. Soyer, Bapst, Massoni, Seao; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Mgr. Reynaud, Mr. and Mrs. Eury, Messrs. Chlemge, Gibrat, Espanet, Begue, E. Collinet, G. Collinet, Revs. Arnoud, Colha, Dumartier, Tolh, Rassat, Sisters Vincent, Chereze, Maria, Josephine, Colnaghi, Messrs. Perrin, Neck, Grand, Gaays, Maillard, Moynier, Mr. and Mrs. Aynie and infant; from Port Said, Sister Louise; from Saigon, Messrs. Le Pau, Poirier, Mrs. Brachetin; for Kobe from Singapore, Major Van Raetemberg; from Saigon, Mr. Oraki; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Michel and Lera; from Colombo, Miss Corrie, Mr. Subha Roch; from Singapore, Messrs. S. P. Crotte, Leveque, Mr. and Mrs. Weyou, Messrs. Pearlmann, Takuchi, Miss Uchitura; from Saigon, Mrs. Schwyer.

Per Empress of Japan, from Vancouver, Messrs. C. H. Blason, W. Pattenden, W. S. King, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. R. Allison; from Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. T. Bourke; from Yokohama, Messrs. E. S. Lawson, A. C. Carter, Capt. Grover, Mr. F. Chapman, Miss T. Hattori; from Kobe, Capt. H. Necker; from Nagasaki, Messrs. K. Shinya and J. Park; from Shanghai, Mrs. Kirby, Mr. Knyvette, Rev. C. Prieto, Rev. F. Marin, Mrs. Ezra, Miss Judah, Messrs. P. L. Swanson, A. J. Edlestein, Mrs. T. A. Clarke, Mr. H. Goebel, Miss Mulligan.

Per Coptic from San Francisco, Messrs. P. C. Cuvelier, A. Howlett, H. Hancock, T. T. Randall, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hanchett, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cockins, Mrs. F. Stickney, Miss Stickney, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Breeden, Mrs. L. J. Hanchett, Mrs. L. M. Roe, Mrs. F. Corbett, Master F. E. Corbett, Messrs. W. D. Lyon, C. V. Wills, Mrs. F. A. Woodsum, Miss M. Klinck, General and Mrs. M. A. Harbach, Messrs. W. H. Dodds, J. M. Manuel, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Armitage.

Per Dongola, for Hongkong from London, Mr., Mrs. and 3 Misses; Master, Mr. and 2 Misses Pilkington, Mr. E. G. T. Pearce, Rev. and Mrs. Longridge, Lieut. Rowbotham, Mr. A. Jackson and Lieut. N. G. Whitty; from Gibraltar, Mr. Fonseca, Dr. Andrade and Lieut. T. H. E. Silva; from Marseilles, Messrs. Dowbiggen and E. Thomas, Col. Lambton, D.S.O.; from Port Said, Mr. J. Gravel, Mr. and Mrs. Perot, Mr. T. M. Husobart, Dr. C. S. Evans; from Bombay, Capt. and Mrs. Biddulph, Col. and Mrs. Olivier, Messrs. G. H. Bode, Wadi, Yachaghandy, C. S. Dady and N. Jagannath; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover; from Singapore, Miss Douglas, Mr. E. N. Wilburn, Staff Sgt. Avenell, Mr. and Mrs. Lip Chive and infant, Mrs. Hausemann and Mr. W. G. Worcester; for Shanghai from London, Mr. and Mrs. Mackintosh, Messrs. L. Lyon and Rumble; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. K. Loo, Paul Hiner, R. N. Spens, J. A. Ross and Pemberton; from Bombay, Messrs. E. C. Hart, C. H. Captain, H. S. Madan, Mrs. Gray Bigge and infant, Mr. B. Zaccoia; from Colombo, Messrs. M. E. Sankoff and Scott Young; for Yokohama from Bombay, Mr. R. D. Master.

DEPARTED.

Per Korea, for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. S. V. Parks, Mrs. O. Hinea, Miss F. Lane, Mrs. J. G. Cress, Mr. G. Kellogg Claxton, Miss M. T. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. King, Messrs. Reiser, W. Radbruch, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Lombard, Mr. J. F. Oiesen, Mr. and Mrs. Erlanger, Mr. C. H. Hilbert, Rev. D. McGilvray, Mrs. G. A. Harmount, Miss R. H. Glendinning, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Strauss, Messrs. Geo. Harbeson, T. W. Williams, W. L. Abbott, Lieut. Grut, Mrs. Bohler, Messrs. W. R. Gourlay, A. J. Williams, Dr. K. Hintze, Mr. S. F. Smith, Mrs. C. S. McCarter, Miss K. Winearls, Mrs. R. Osborne, Mrs. F. Kelloz, Mr. and Mrs. L. Leland, Mr. Rutledge, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Huke, Miss M. McCormick, Mr. M. Dussair, Major Parker, Messrs. C. A. Clarke, A. L. Heckler, Mrs. J. H. Miller, Miss J. E. Bronson, Mrs. M. A. Barney, Mrs. W. P. Tyler, Mrs. D. G. Brinton, Messrs. L. C. Bishop, H. A. Mattock, A. Ferrier, J. G. Cumming, D. McDonald, Mrs. A. Ferrier, Mrs. Thomas F. Grier.

Per Kanagawa Maru, for Seattle, &c., Consul-General J. Costa de Morass, Miss de Morass, Miss Ania de Morass, Miss Gil, Miss Barbosa, Mrs. Tripp, Messrs. W. Sand, H. Willems, W. Umer, W. C. Spencer, Horatio Smith, Mrs. Mattock, Miss and Master Mattock, Colonel Arima, Mrs. C. Yamawaki, Mrs. S. Kondo, Mr. and Mrs. Marques and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Marques, Miss C. Marques, Messrs. K. Okada, K. Sakurai, O. Uyetsuki and E. J. Lopes.

Per Caledonien, for Shanghai, Rev. Billiet, Messrs. E. Jorge, Liantand, Bervas, A. Rogaria, Amedie Ohe and S. Nerohouse.

Per Ernest Simons, for Saigon, Messrs. Gautret, Chapues, Mrs. Perrin, Messrs. Malo, Hamada and Nakamura; for Singapore, Messrs. Marc Dufaux, Cunningham, W., T. Clark, A. C. Potosky, MacHugh, Fountain, V. Lenbeger, Chatermill, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Bourke, Messrs. Eric St. J. Lawson, Cecil Cartier, C. F. Hare and Daryanani; for Colombo, Mr. P. D. Khan, Sisters Odette Therry and Mathilde Ballin; for Bomba, Messrs. D. C. Postwalla, H. Katrak and J. Aarou; for Marseilles, Capt. and Mrs. Tuke, Rev. P. J. Villeneuve, Mr. Bazin, Capt. Harry Sims, Messrs. Wm. Winch, E. Nichols, Lutz, Dupuy, G. Benz, Pedro Roxas, Dr. Ramon Lopez, Miss Felecidia Lopes.

Per Monteagle, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Finlay Miller and child, Messrs. R. A. Ferguson, G. H. Peyer, J. A. Higgins, W. B. Haughwout, Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael, Miss Stewart, Rev. J. R. and Mrs. Harcourt, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Curry, Messrs. Tufts, R. Stewart, Earl and Countess of Leitram, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Dunlop, Miss Dunlop, Mr. and Mrs. Scantlebury, Mrs. P. M. H. Jones, Miss A. B. Leewan, Messrs. J. R. Hodgson, W. T. Hoskin, Mrs. and Miss Macken, Mr. G. F. Taylor, Col. and Mrs. Barrett, Mr. J. Reidie, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie, Mrs. Hastings, Messrs. R. M. Joseph, W. W. Horstburg, Dickie, F. A. Crooks, Connor, Capt. H. W. Hogg, Messrs. M. A. Merten, W. B. Crowder, M. K. Davidson, W. Guiler, Herman Briga, Major Parker, J. M. Robb, W. von Martins, D. White, Mr. and Mrs. B. Kennedy, Col. and Mrs. Goldie, Mr. W. Ashton-Peryke, Lieut.-Gen. and Mrs. McLeod, Capt. Adamson, Col. Darling, Messrs. E. Lynn, Richardson, Shaughnessy, Anstey, Jopp, Thurston and Evans.

Per Kawachi Maru, for London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Silac and child, Major Y. Kokishi, Messrs. T. Tanahashi, H. Ohshima, Major I. Inouye, K. Kanaya, Mr. K. Ugaki, Lieut.-Col. N. Mori, Major Nakagawa, Surg. 2nd Lieut. H. Yamaguchi, Mrs. R. B. McKinell and infant, Lieut.-Comdr. T. Ishejumi, Mrs. E. Negishi and child, Messrs. Wm. Campbell, Z. Kamiya, Mrs. Tours and 2 children, Mrs. A. Christiansen, Messrs. H. Sudzuki, G. Westwood, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Endale and children, Messrs. Koyama, Hisakata and A. Torrible.

Per Prinz Sigismund, for Australia, Messrs. H. Becker, W. L. Blackett, Wm. Cantlay, Miss Adele Botsch, Messrs. Oswald Dykes, Paul Ewest, Bernhard Funke, Heisig, M. Hofmekel, Dr. M. Kunik, Mr. Mayoyama, Mr. and Mrs. K. Mueller, Mr. Protzen, Mrs. Reich.